
Rita Kessler - District Manager

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COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS

FISCAL YEAR 2008

Community District 7 is situated in the northwest section of the Bronx with boundaries; (North) southern boundary of Van Cortlandt Park, Bainbridge Avenue-East 211th Street and the prolongation of East 211th Street; (East) NY New Haven Railroad, Webster Avenue to Bedford Park Boulevard; (South) Fordham Road East, Jerome Avenue, West 183rd Street, University Avenue, Hall of Fame Terrace and the western prolongation of hall of Fame Terrace to the Harlem River; (West) Harlem River, Broadway to West 225th Street, West Kingsbridge Road, Reservoir Avenue, Goulden Avenue and Mosholu Parkway.

Please note, that our emphasis on various issues, described later in our "Statement" does not diminish the importance of:

- * Funding for affordable, licensable space for child care services to provide for the children of working parents;***
- * Maintain/increase all Sanitation services including weekly recycling;***
- * Complete rehabilitation of Devoe, St. James, Williamsbridge Oval and the many smaller parks in the district;***
- * Funding to provide the 52nd Pct. with the "tools" they need to maintain a safe environment for the residents in CD7;***
- * Increase funding for Fire Safety Education Programs;***
- * Restoration of lost dollars for Senior Programs;***
- * Funding for building maintenance to include additional building inspectors.***

KINGSBRIDGE ARMORY

The Kingsbridge Armory, located at 29 West Kingsbridge Road is the largest facility of its kind in the world. The building occupies a city block at the intersections of West Kingsbridge Road and Jerome Avenue. Today, this nine-story brick structure stands predominately abandoned and decaying.

Approximately one year ago, Governor Pataki visited the Armory, touring the facility with local officials and others. One of the key issues at that time was finding a location for the two National Guard companies stationed in the building's annex on West 195th Street.

Proposals for development were presented to the board by various developers and organizations. The plans included the community's wish list for schools (approximately 2,000 seats), family recreational facilities, commercial space, sports complex, theater, etc. The Governor assured us that he would continue to work with local officials on the Armory and agreed to discuss the project with the mayor, and City Council members.

In May '06, the Mayor's Office assured us that the city would issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) and that the National Guard replacement was not a major issue. A Kingsbridge Armory Task Force was appointed by the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to partake in the plans for the Armory. The RFP is proposed to be issued this August. We anticipate that development begin soon after so that this once beautiful land marked structure may bring about a new vitality to the already bustling Fordham Road, Jerome and Kingsbridge corridor and to the Bronx-at-large.

THE BRONX WATERFRONT

Borough President Adolfo Carrion has created a Bronx Waterfront Task Force to study, and create a comprehensive waterfront plan reaching the many waterfront properties surrounding the borough. The goal is to develop waterfront activities, restore natural habitats, construct a harbor with industry and commerce, a waterfront esplanade, recreation (biking, pathways for walking), housing development, etc.

The Bronx is a beautiful place and the creation of a waterfront will enhance its beauty even more. Community District 7 wholeheartedly supports Borough President Carrion and shares his visions for the future.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Community District 7 has 146.7 acres of parkland. When we forward our budget priorities requesting additional funding for park personnel for maintenance of drinking fountains, sprinklers and comfort stations, bench/playground repair, litter pick-up, etc. and because our parks are widely used for sports and recreation there is a vital need to rehabilitate the grassy lawns, the general agency response is not at this time due to the uncertainty of available funds.

Today there is no excuse. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has provided the Borough of the Bronx with \$243 million for park improvements for the use of parkland to construct the Croton Water Filtration Plant. As this is project is within CD 7 lines we request that we receive a far greater proportionate share of these dollars due to the enormous burdens that this 8-10 year construction project will have upon our district.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Rita Kessler
District Manager*