



BRONX CAPITOL DISTRICT

The City of New York

Bronx Community Board Four DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT, FY' 2013

Pastor Wenzell P. Jackson
Board Chair

Jose Rodriguez
District Manager



The Bronx Museum of The Arts



Bronx County Building



Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center



Yankee Stadium



The Highbridge



The Lorelei Fountain at Joyce Kilmer Park



The Bronx Hall of Justice



Gateway Retail Center



Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice



153rd Street Bridge

FY '2013 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

The process of ascertaining our needs is an important and constructive measure taken by Community Boards in shaping our service and budget requests. This ongoing process requires the involvement of each Board Member, Committee and the input from Board Member's personal observations, published surveys, public hearings, and discussions with local service chiefs. In developing our needs statement our goal is not to assign blame but to re-enforce community involvement, identify patterns or areas of concern and to improve upon what has been developed.

It is the responsibility of municipal government to provide the services and resources to community districts that will enable them to thrive and meet their goals. The service demands of each neighborhood and constituency in our district must be matched with the appropriate response, not only from the appropriate City agency but from all our residents—especially parents—in order to create healthy living conditions in our fast-growing community. We will do our best to ensure that our community board receives its 'fair share' of charter-mandated resources and stand at the forefront in protecting and servicing our citizenry.

Community District Four, the Capital District is made up of the following Bronx neighborhoods: Mt. Eden, Highbridge, West Concourse, East Concourse, Morrisania and Concourse Village. Our strong, vibrant neighborhoods encompass East 149th Street on the South, East 174th Street on the North, The Harlem River on the West and Webster to Park Avenue on the East with easy access through major rail lines, roadways, and public transit, both surface and underground. Nearly 140,000 residents celebrate our distinct and varied positive contributions.

We are the host community to the world renown, Yankee Organization, Mill Pond Park, 7 Acre Joseph Yancey Track & Field, The Gateway Center Mall, the Borough's Court System, the Bronx Museum of the Arts and many Art Deco buildings along the Grand Concourse Historic District. We are at the very center of the metropolitan region, only minutes from Manhattan, New Jersey, Long Island, and Westchester. We are the administrative center of the County, housing the offices of the Borough President, The District Attorney, the County and City Clerk.

Ours is a great place to visit, live and work!

TRANSPORTATION: We continue to voice our concerns about traffic conditions in our District and ask the Administration to continue to look into the development of the East 153rd Street Bridge. We join our colleagues in advocating for the Bridge development, which we believe would ease traffic congestion along 149th and 161st Streets, as well as alleviate some of the congestion on local streets in the neighborhood.

Parking: An outstanding concern of this community has been the lack of adequate parking throughout our District especially around the Yankee Stadium area. We were encouraged by the Administration's congestion initiative that looked at the area three years ago but are discouraged with the inaction of developing neighborhood permit parking. The Community Board has long advocated for measures that allow for making parking easier while reducing congestion and improving safety. We again welcome DOT to evaluate how such a program would be beneficial to Community Board Four and we commit to assisting in the coordination of merchants, BIDs and other local stakeholders in developing this project.

FY '2013 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

District Problems – Areas of Concern

- Repairs of the 174th Street Underpass? Have DOT engineers liaised with DEP and MTA personnel to determine responsibility and renovation of the 174th Street Bridge/Underpass?
- Step Street repairs/renovations? Has DOT surveyed Board Four's Step Street (13) to determine stability of said structures?
- Jerome/Shakespeare/Cromwell (167th) Triangle's concrete configuration to be widened to allow for safe pedestrian movement along that corridor and complement the Macomb's Road Project.
- Placement of speed humps along Sheridan Avenue from 153rd Street – to 161st Street Concourse Village West.
- Survey and placement of Bus Pads along our commercial corridors 161st, 167th & 170th Street from Jerome to Morris Avenue and along the Grand Concourse at 161st, 167th, 170th & Mt Eden North and South bound.
- Jerome Traffic Study from Mt Eden and 174th Street and Cross Bronx Expressway.
- Dedicated allocation for resurfacing of the Grand Concourse. (149th Street to 174th)
- Repair slope at 161st Street and Gerard Avenue.
- Increase maintenance of District Four underpasses 161st Street, 167th, 170th and Cross Bronx Expressway.
- Re-explore the Residential Parking Program within the following boundaries: 149th Street to 161st Street from the Grand Concourse to River Avenue.
- Arterial clean up of Thoroughfares.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS/ HOUSING PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT:

- The Board supports funding requests to maintain and increase safety inspection personnel, improve inspector training and recruitment.
- Board Four continues to request monthly reports that outline the agency's complaints and resolutions.
- Agency to review current codes to sufficiently address "greening" initiatives.
- It is in the interest of our Community District to promote economic diversity which is why we support the development of affordable housing for moderate and middle-income individuals. The lack of affordable housing for this demographic continues to leave our District at a disadvantage.

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING: Bronx Community Board Four continues to encourage the Bronx Office of NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) to review potential funding for Brownfield Area-Wide Planning to focus on the Cromwell-Jerome section of Community District Four. We call on the DCP to explore the following.

The Cromwell-Jerome Community Development

FY '2013 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

Brownfield Development: *The Cromwell-Jerome study area is comprised of 19 blocks in the South Bronx, Bronx, NY. The general boundaries of the proposed study area are: Cross Bronx Expressway (Interstate 95) to the north, Jerome Avenue to the east, 167th Street to the south, Edward L. Grant highway, and Macombs Road to the west. DCP has identified 30 potential brownfield sites in the study area. The pilot initiative aims to foster community involvement in the local planning process specifically with regard to the assessment, cleanup and reuse of brownfield properties in the aforementioned area. We believe that an analysis and planning of this sort will serve the economic development interests and vision of Community Board Four.*

*The Cromwell-Jerome study area is heavily automotive and borders stable but high-need residential communities with growing new-immigrant populations. Development and investment in the 19-block Cromwell-Jerome study area have been thwarted by a number of factors, and the area has therefore failed to reach its potential as a viable commercial / mixed-use district serving the surrounding communities. First, due to the overwhelming number of auto related uses, it is suspected that subsurface contamination exists in soil and groundwater throughout the area; the costs of potential brownfield remediation are unknown and therefore daunting. Second, local economic conditions and historical perceptions of the market and its viability have typically required enhanced government subsidies for residential development. These incentives, on the City, State and Federal levels, have steadily decreased in recent years to the point of creating a fiercely competitive environment which favors development unimpeded by these additional environmental challenges. Finally, the current zoning, established back in 1961, restricts permitted uses to light manufacturing and heavy commercial uses such as auto-repair and gas stations, and does not allow residential uses. For these reasons, the City must find ways to encourage investment in underserved areas such as Cromwell-Jerome. Today the Cromwell-Jerome area is **overburdened by auto-related uses**. Both Cromwell and Jerome Avenues, despite their proximity to mass transit stations, are lined with auto chop shops, junk yards, and make-shift auto-repair shops whose operations frequently spill over into the public street. Most of these enterprises have seen little or no investment or clean-up in decades. The most recent development in the study area has been self-storage facilities. In fact, there are three large self-storage facilities and a notable 48 open parking lots/auto-related facilities within the 19-block area. Not only do these uses not generate significant jobs or provide basic services to local residents, they make for a disjointed unattractive streetscape and barren streets after hours and on the weekends. The overall lack of investment and development leaves brownfield-impacted lots unremediated and blighted, adversely affecting neighboring residential populations. DCP has so far identified 30 potential brownfield sites in the proposed study area (based on past industrial uses) that hold important opportunity for reaching community revitalization goals in the Cromwell-Jerome area.*

Preliminary assessment clearly points to high need in the area for affordable housing (income-limited), local services such as banks and supermarkets, and access to jobs in the Cromwell-Jerome community. A 2009 DCP study also categorized the area as "high need" in terms of increased access to fresh food –the existing retail environment offers limited opportunities to purchase fresh foods, and data show consumption of produce is low, and the rates of the twin epidemics - diabetes and obesity - are high among area residents. The community also has need to improve links to existing mass transit by improving streetscape, pedestrian crossings, and active ground-floor uses in the area surrounding the subway stations.

FY '2013 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

MX Re-zoning Development: Will address the residential and commercial needs of the Cromwell-Jerome area, with the goal of rezoning the main commercial corridor to a Mixed-Use (MX) district. Rezoning the area to MX would allow for much needed mixed-income residential development, as well as encourage new and vibrant retail activity in this important commercial-industrial area as previously stated.

New School and Community Center: Currently, underway about half a square block between Jerome & Inwood Avenues to the east and west, and W. 172nd & Goble Place to the north and south. This city-contracted project in-conjunction with New Settlement Apartments will contain a new K-12 public school and community center. This significant development will pave the way for further investment that would likely be spurred by a new MX zone.

Encourage the development of new Affordable Housing

There is a need for affordable housing and in the city as a whole. Mayor Bloomberg's New Housing Marketplace Plan has set a goal of creating over 165,000 units of affordable housing over 10 years. Establishing the Cromwell-Jerome Community as an Inclusionary Zoning area would encourage the provision of new permanently-affordable housing in order to help meet this goal. Under the Inclusionary Zoning program, developers would only be able to reach the maximum allowable residential FAR if they provide permanently affordable housing either on site or off site in new or existing buildings. The Cromwell-Jerome Community contains sites that would be ideal for housing and encourage the reuse of underutilized lots and parking garages.

Connect the Ogden Avenue and the Cromwell-Jerome Community : Local residents and workers in the neighborhoods surrounding Cromwell-Jerome frequently walk from West 170th Street to reach the IRT #4 train stop at East 170th Street and Jerome Avenue to travel to work and a myriad other destinations served by the #4 train. Revitalization of the Cromwell-Jerome area would make for a livelier and potentially safer connection to surrounding communities.

Provide a new community Park: The Cromwell-Jerome area contains one small park at the intersection of Inwood Avenue and Goble Place; however the park is surrounded by garages, a medical center and an SRO Transitional Facility making it unattractive for use by residents residing in proximity. The acquisition of vacant land near East 170th Street and development of new park space would provide a refreshing new amenity for the community, and improve the overall physical appearance of the Valley.

The physical appearance of a neighborhood has a significant impact on an individual's perception of his or her community, feelings of civic pride, and overall quality of life, all which directly correlate with whether or not residents support revitalization efforts and new neighborhood investment. The Cromwell-Jerome area would benefit greatly from aesthetic improvements such as new street trees, street lights, and street furniture, trash receptacles, upgraded property line fences and graffiti removal. These seemingly minor additions can significantly affect the local residential and business communities in the Cromwell-Jerome area, offering a sense of hope, ownership and participation in the revitalization of the area.

Lastly, we continue to ask DCP to study the area directly east of the Gateway Center for rezoning. The area is prime for a more robust mixed-used development. The Office of the Borough President believes and we concur that reviewing this area would preserve existing structures and fill important zoning gaps to enhance further renewal of the Lower Concourse.

FY '2013 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Year after year we have advocated for the increase in funding for youth programs and services. We strongly urge DYCD to consult with Community Boards on budgetary matters for we cannot continue to state that our youth are our future and at the same time, because of decisions made not providing them with the economic, educational and social opportunities they need to compete in an ever-changing global market.

With the increase in population, we are experiencing an influx of youth coming into our district. It becomes our obligation to provide them with the life skills they need to mature into adulthood. Consequently, the lack of adequate funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program is a continual concern for the youth of our district. Year after year, summer job opportunities become less and less, which makes it very difficult to assure teens the life and work experience skills they need to enhance their development. Without these opportunities, our young people will be relegated to hanging out in the streets causing disruption to the quality of life of our community residents. In the end, the cost of addressing problems associated with at-risk youth will be far greater than providing them with the resources they need to enhance their productive growth.

With that said, the Board was alarmed that funding for the Teen ACTION Initiative (anticipated for 2012-2014) has been drastically reduced to less than \$1.37 million annually, and that DYCD anticipates providing funding to only 20 programs across all five boroughs. This represents a cut of approx. 67% in funding dollars compared to the past four years – and a corresponding reduction in the number of programs to be funded – from 59 sites in each recent year to only 20 in 2012. Funding for this innovative initiative should be dramatically increased, even restored to previous levels, if possible. Middle-school aged adolescents are particularly underserved in positive youth-development programs in [my district], and this well-designed program provides a strong model and curriculum that should be sustained – even expanded, not reduced.

However, even if DYCD holds to the reduced level of funding for Teen ACTION anticipated in the Concept Paper, I strongly recommend that Bronx CD4 be added to the list of high-priority CDs that are targeted in the anticipated 2011 RFP. In the past four years, Teen ACTION programs have operated in CD4 and this low-income community district cannot afford to lose this innovative and effective program.

A range of relevant current data from NYC and NYS government sources shows compelling evidence that youth in CD4 are at least as in need – if not more so – of Teen ACTION than many of the 20 CDs listed as targeted neighborhoods in the Concept Paper. The very high risk of falling off-track as adolescents and teens in CD4 is underscored by data compiled from diverse NYC and NYS sources in the 2010 edition of Citizens' Committee for Children's *Keeping Track of New York City's Children* (June 2010) – including the extreme poverty of children in CD4, the high density of children per square mile, the high number and rate of births to teen mothers, and the high rates of juvenile and youth felony arrests and youth misdemeanor arrests.

We draw your attention to a few key indicators:

- The large number of youth and youth density: Among Bronx neighborhoods, CD4 has the highest total population [N=138,518] and the largest number of youth under 18 years [N=43,868]. In terms of

FY '2013 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

total number of children per square mile [N=21,934], CD4 ranks as the 3rd most dense neighborhood in NYC.

- Children in CD4 are also among the very poorest in NYC: In CD 4, 22.4% of children aged 0-17 receive cash assistance – the 3rd highest rate in the Bronx and the 3rd highest rate in all of NYC. CD4 also has the 3rd lowest median household income [N=\$26,934] in all of NYC.
- CD4 has the very highest teen birth rate (70.6 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19) in all of New York City. It also has the highest number of births to teen mothers (aged 14-16) in the Bronx [N=55] and the 3rd highest number of births to teen mothers (aged 17-19) in all of NYC [N=269].

The Concept Paper underscores DYCD's intention to strengthen the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SHR) component of Teen ACTION in coming years, based on very high rates of teen pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, in NYC's poorest neighborhoods. Surely CD4 qualifies for inclusion as a targeted neighborhood based on the teen *live-birth rate* alone. [Rates of teen pregnancy and STIs are also very high in CD4.]

- Youth are at very high risk of involvement in juvenile and criminal justice systems: Juvenile felony arrests (youth under 16 years old) in CD4 [N=182 in 2008] are the very highest in the Bronx and 2nd highest in NYC. And youth misdemeanor arrests (youth aged 16-20) in CD4 [N=2,002 in 2008] are 2nd highest in the Bronx and 3rd highest in NYC.

We urge you to reconsider the data and include CD4 among the targeted neighborhoods for this important initiative that will provide much-needed positive youth development programming to low income adolescents in NYC's most impoverished communities.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING:

- Funding to service providers to adequately address service demands and to renovate senior service centers, where appropriate.
- The expansion and continuation of funding for senior centers to meet local needs and provide services for money management.
- Funding for elder abuse training services, Adult Daycare Social Model and geriatric mental health services.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: As one of the most populous Bronx districts, we continue to urge that our need for Public Safety be measured against our service area and high-density population. Particularly, because of our unique status as the "Capitol District," we host Yankee Stadium, the Civic Center, several commercial strips, the entire County Court System and more, which adds to an unusual and extensive drain on city resources. We were pleased with programs that brought about the crackdown on drug related activities particularly "operation impact".

FY '2013 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

With gang activity, youth on youth crime and other abuses towards our quality of life on the rise, it becomes imperative that sufficient funding be provided to place additional School Safety and Police Officers in the confines of the 44th Precinct. We feel that a focused aggressive enforcement and deterrence strategy applied on relatively minor offenses such as graffiti, loitering, loud music and petty crimes would enhance our quality of life.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- Appropriate increase in FDNY & EMS personnel as well as additional equipment and protective gear with adequate funding for terrorism training and equipment needs in order to improve service delivery to our community.
- Fund Firehouse Renovations.
 - a. Emergency Generators
 - b. Window Replacement
 - c. Bathroom Upgrade
 - d. Roof Replacement/Waterproofing
 - e. Pointing
 - f. Kitchen Renovation
 - g. Apparatus Floor Replacement
- Funding to expand fire safety education that includes CPR training, smoke and carbon monoxide detector distribution
- Restore the "fifth man"

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: This agency has been unable to reach a highly successful level of water conservation through its Hydro-Lock program. Although a decrease has been observed, this summer, we again witnessed many open fire hydrants dispensing huge quantities of water. We do however commend DEP for the innovative "HEAT" program.

- Improved technology is needed with the installed hydro locks; they are not working. The effective closure of these fire hydrants can assist in water waste and water pressure preservation, critical to putting out fires.
- Increase in field operations personnel in order to meet the current need for service delivery.
- Funding to hire additional Enforcement personnel to identify and initiate action against violators of the air pollution codes.
- DEP to conduct a comprehensive survey of our catch basins along our high traffic/congested areas.

Lastly, we call for the an official outline of all environmental measures associated with the development/deconstruction of the Gateway Center, Yankee Stadium, (new and old) Mill Pond Park, Heritage Field, and the two pocket parks.

FY '2013 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION: The cleanliness level, or lack of in our streets, characterizes our district. We want to ensure that our image is a clean one and as such, we urge the restoration of D.O.S. personnel, including "hand" cleaners, to adequately maintain our streets and sidewalks.

We commend the agency for their outreach efforts and public education campaign highlighting the benefits of recycling. We need DOS to continue reminding city residents and property owners about the recycling program in effect, through a sustained public education campaign.

Community Board Four experiences **difficulties having no regular cleaning and maintenance schedules for the extraordinary number of underpasses, step streets and sitting areas.**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP: We are hopeful that the Economic Development Corporation will work in conjunction with the Department of Business Services, to assist the Community Board in calling for funding for the development of tying in economic development and tourism. Our district could serve as a catalyst for increased development and local entrepreneurship, resulting in job creation and business development opportunities and services to our community residents.

Community Board Four would like to seek funding from either SBS or EDC for the development of a study that would focus on business and properties along Ogden Avenue from the Cross Bronx Expressway to West 161st Street and Yankee Stadium. The area in question is located in the Highbridge area of District Four. The Ogden corridor, the neighborhood's primary commercial corridor rest within access to the George Washington Bridge, Major Deegan and the Cross Bronx Expressway making this it ideal for business to develop and thrive. For many years areas similar to Highbridge have suffered due to disinvestment.

Although SBS and EDC rely on private development and provide guidance on best practices for private investors to employ, we encourage the agencies to take on a more proactive role and work with the Community Board to create a plan that would allow for the attraction of a diversified group of retailers.

The overall goal would be to enhance the socio-economic conditions of the neighborhood by:

- Development of a market assessment
- Evaluation of zoning changes
- Survey of existing properties vacant and occupied
- Service needs (social and economic)
- Outline the areas positives
- Beautification needs
- Quality life issues to address
- Streetscape/Street amenities
- Partner with residents to incorporate residential needs.

FY '2013 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES: Bronx Community Board Four has expressed its frustration and concerns regarding the Department of Homeless Services' siting policies and how they relate to community review. The notification procedure that DHS has opted to use is inadequate. There is no meaningful dialogue and consultation with the affected community and no consideration for community input. The failure of DHS to fully take into consideration the needs and concerns of community residents, both young and elderly continues to illustrate the callousness of an agency charged to take care of those who are in need of services without thinking about the burden that is placed on others.

When it comes to less affluent communities, it appears all the guidelines of "fair share" policy and indeed, fair play, are forgotten. The Charter grants that neighborhoods should have input into planning its environs. We strongly maintain that the City should truly keep to its "Fair Share" policy. It is unconscionable that an agency with the duty, authority and powers that can change the quality of life of entire neighborhoods go about their business without substantial public review. Such a practice is unacceptable for any community especially Community District Four and so we continue to petition the Council that there must be enforcement of mandated consideration of the review.

PARKS DEPARTMENT: What is the status of maintenance along the Grand Concourse planters and replacement of dead shrubs? We understand that an MOU has been signed by DPR and DOT regarding the GC planters, please confirm.

- What are the overall budget and staffing for Bronx District Four general maintenance and horticultural programs?
- Do commercial events, conducted for example by car companies, pharmaceuticals, etc, generate funds that go into the general fund? Concessions do generate funds that go into the general fund. How much do these activities generate and how can these funds be redirected to the DPR?
- What is the current full time and seasonal staffing for maintenance and cleaning, and the budget, for the DPR in Bronx District Four? How have the PEGs for this fiscal year impacted staffing and services? How so?
- What are the responsibilities of, and budget for, PEP? In addition to daily parks monitoring and enforcement, does PEP cover activities and events in parks? How many Bronx PEPs are dedicated to District Four parks? Which ones? What is the projected need for additional PEP in District Four? What is the cost for each additional PEP?
- What is the status of funding to buy the Big Belly trash cans for District Four Parks? Rodent infestation continues to be a major problem. What is the budget for DPR extermination staff?
- Does Parks have any City funds in the budget allocated for capital projects that were not obtained from State, Federal, Councilmanic and private sources? What does DPR fund through the agency's capital budget, and in what amount? What types of capital projects depend on funds from elected officials, including the Mayor's office? What is the overall strategy for prioritizing DPR's capital needs? In District Four Nelson Playground's frog statues need to be replaced, Claremont Park's retaining wall is in need of repair.
- What is the status and funding of the One Million Trees? Does this include planting and care of street trees?
- What expense and capital budget priorities does DPR ask Bronx community boards to support in the FY213 budget?

FY '2013 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

Although we are pleased with the projects being developed we must however, call to the Department's attention the unsanitary conditions of our parks. During our Summer months we have receive numerous complaints regarding the unkempt conditions at Claremont; Joyce Kilmer; Mullaly; Franz Siegel and the Mt Eden Malls.

We are fully aware of your agencies fiscal constraints however; this cannot and will not be the standard for our neighborhood playgrounds and recreational spaces.

Again we continue to be distressed at progressive financial cuts suffered by your agency limiting both its capital and expense budget. We particularly deplore the losses experienced re: **Parks Enforcement Patrol. Providing adequate Parks Enforcement personnel is essential to the entire Park program, coupled with an appropriate amount of funding for public safety enhancement.** Money spent on maintenance upgrades should be matched with an equal amount spent on safety enhancements. They both go hand and hand.

How are we going to resolve the many issues facing our Community Parks? If this issue is not addressed then why did the City proceed with the replacement program? Rational thinking would suggest why continue if you cannot meet the current needs of existing facilities? We are appealing to DPR and encourage an unannounced visit to our Community District so that agency heads may see firsthand what we are referring too. **Keep in mind we fully understand that some of the blame should be placed on those who patronize our recreational facilities** however, together we need to find a resolution to this ongoing problem.

CB4 Park Projects:

- **Grant Park** – Completion of the restructuring and necessary demapping of Grant Park, located between 169th-170th Street.
- **Claremont Park** - Major Restoration of Claremont Park. Note: Claremont Park would be considered as the "Crowning Jewel" in any other District, yet due to Yankee Stadium and its surrounding Parks it's has become an orphaned child.
- **Joyce Kilmer Park** – (1) Completion of Wrought Iron Fencing covering the radius of the Park. (2) Reseeding of Grass within the Park beautifying as well as eliminating visible "bald spots" thus enhancing the overall look of the Park.
- **Mill Pond Park** – (1) Implementing a Bus Shuttle Service to transport individuals within the Community to and from 161st Grand Concourse and Mill Pond Park including 2-3 stops along the route. (2) Creation of an Ice Skating Rink utilizing the four Tennis Courts, which are available during winter.
- **Mullaly Park** – Renovating the Skateboarding Area for Teens / Adults to a World Class Venue in hope of being able to give Community Recognition for a Historical Landmark as the first Skateboard Park created in the nation.
- **Police Athletic League (PAL)** – Creation of a PAL in the Northeast section of CB4. Preferably to be located in Claremont Park near East 170th Street.
- **New Parks District** – Establishing a Parks District to include Mullaly Park, the new Skate / Kiddie Park on River Avenue, and all of Mill Pond Park. This would allow the Parks Department to create and utilize new resources for the Yankee Stadium area, leaving intact limited resources from other

FY '2013 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

areas such as Claremont Park, Franz Sigel Park, Joyce Kilmer Park, Grant Park and all on other parks and playgrounds.


- **Equipment** – (1) Purchasing Snow and Graffiti Removal equipment strictly for the usage of our Parks District. This would eliminate foreseeable issues during winter months, which in the past impeded usage of sidewalks, walkways and stairs for over two weeks in Joyce Kilmer Park, and Claremont Park.
- **Maintenance of all Parks** – Continuous pruning of aging Trees, pathways, sidewalks, walkways, etc.
- **Recreation** – Conducting multiple events at all Parks such as Art Classes, Book Reading, Double Dutch Tournaments, Music Classes and Concerts, Landscaping Classes, Puppet Shows, Skating Tournaments, Morning / Evening Tai Chi and Yoga Classes, Swimming Classes, Baseball, Basketball, Soccer Tournaments, etc.
- **Overall Parks Budget** – 1% of the City's yearly budget should be set aside for the Parks Dept.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE:

Community District Four continues to support the agencies overall health goals and continues to stress the coordination of its community outreach efforts especially the Rodent Campaign.

IN CONCLUSION: As always, we take this moment to reflect on the past year and even the years preceding. All too often, we find ourselves in an adversarial position with agencies' policies, but we have never considered their representatives as our adversaries. On the contrary, we have often found the agency representatives to be cooperative, responsive and helpful. We could never achieve our successes alone...It has always been a joint effort of New York's best and brightest and for that the people of Community District # Four are most grateful.

As we encounter new challenges, we believe that together we can succeed and come up with creative solutions that will improve the quality of life of our residents. MAY OUR PURPOSE CONTINUE TO BE THE WELL-BEING OF OUR CITY'S INHABITANTS!

Submitted by: 
José Rodriguez, District Manager

In collaboration with:

Rev. Wenzell P. Jackson, **Board Chair**, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, **1st Vice Chair**
Ms. Llinet Beltre-Rosado, **2nd Vice Chair**, Ms. Beverly Bond, **Recording Secretary**
Mr. Barry Nissen, **Treasurer**, Mr. Michael Rendino, **Economic Development Committee Chairperson**
Ms. Martha Reyes, **Health & Human Services Committee Chairperson**
Rev. Earl McKay **Housing & Land Use Committee Chairperson**
Ms. Mildred James **Municipal & Education Services Committee Chairperson**
Ms. Melody Frazer, **Parks Committee Chairperson**, Mr. Jean Mirvil, **Youth Committee Chairperson**