



The City of New York
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The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
“The Capitol District”

DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT, FY' 2011



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

Ms. D. Lee Ezell
Board Chair

Mr. José Rodriguez
District Manager

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Fiscal Year 2011 will prove to be one that will challenge us to thoroughly think of more cost effective ways to conduct our business. Every year, as part of our Charter Mandate Community Boards participate in the budget process. Our role in ascertaining our needs is an important and constructive measure taken by Community Boards in shaping the district's service and budget requests. This ongoing process requires the involvement of each Board member and committee. The input from Board Member's personal observations, published surveys, public hearings, discussions with local service chiefs and the use of minutes from the District Service Cabinet and the district office complaint log assist in identifying patterns or areas of problems within the community. As we continue to be face with financial uncertainties we must remain vigilant not to allow for cuts that will impact on our quality of life. As we support efforts made by City Government to balance our budget and manage our City, we cannot be idle observers in the process but rather diligent participants assisting our leaders in crafting innovative ways in managing our budget difficulties.

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. Nearly 140,000 thousand residents celebrate our resurgence, and welcome new cultures, languages, hopes and dreams of the many new Americans making this district their home, from around the globe. We celebrate their distinct and varied positive contributions.

Ours is a great place to visit, work and live. We are the host community to the world renown, Yankee Stadium, The New Gateway Center at the old Bronx Terminal Market, the Borough's Court System, the Bronx Museum of the Arts and many Art Deco buildings along the Grand Concourse Historic District. Soon our community will enjoy newly renovated recreational facilities, such as, tennis courts, a state of the art track & field and a new water front park. We continue to attract public and private sector economic development opportunities, again District #4 is an ideal location to do business and reside.

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 Courts and the County Clerk. There is easy access through major rail lines, roadways, and public transit, both surface and underground. We are a community of contrasts. Sleek silhouettes of art-deco buildings are a short stroll away from lovely small homes. Acre for acre we have more parks throughout our two square miles than any other district. All of our residents and guests get the "green carpet" treatment.

Community District Four has experienced a commercial, residential and economic revival, making it a very exciting time for us here. We are excited about the roster of ongoing capital improvement projects and completed development projects earmarked for our district, projects we have fought long and hard for. Although we are at the brink of an economic down turn, we believe that our urban revival will continue and the fruits of years of advocacy will bear to sustain us as we move forward. Many of the capital improvement projects underway or slated for development, are part of Community Board Four's effort to include budget priority items, year after year, that will benefit the district.

Although we have prospered during the time of good and plenty we are mindful of what is to come. We will remain vigilant that Community District #4 receives its "fair share" of charter-mandated resources. The service demands of each neighborhood and constituency in our district needs to be

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matched with the appropriate response from the agencies for all categories of service and resources to create healthy conditions in this fast-growing community. We have a responsibility to care and plan for every segment represented in our district, including the young, the elderly, the native born, the foreign born, the poor, the disabled and the illiterate.

Community Boards must continue to be a voice for the voiceless and a strong advocate for every constituency. It is the responsibility of municipal government to provide the services and resources to the community districts in this city that will enable them to thrive and meet their goals.

COMMUNITY BOARDS: The City Charter states with vigor the importance and obligations mandated to Community Boards. Experience has taught us that intended programs are without meaning when they are without funds. We are currently operating on an internal budget of \$198,895 for a district with nearly 140,000 residents. Actually, the financial figure is far less than that since much of the Board's budget is pre-allocated for fixed expenses. Community Boards provide direct and almost immediate access between community residents and city government. That link must be strengthened. Instead, we are being weakened because as many city agencies are reducing services, we are being called upon with greater urgency to fill the gap produced by the reduction of services from other agencies but without the adequate financial resources. We recognize existing difficulties but we believe that Community Boards are the best thing that has happened for New York City.

We are gratified that the City Council with Mayoral support spared Community Boards from budget cuts this time, but while we have regained an inch, we are still miles behind when it comes to an equitable allocation of city funding. Let us conclude this portion of our commentary by saying that with the adequate fiscal support, Community Boards can provide the proverbial "ounce of prevention" that makes it unnecessary for the city to pay dearly for the "pound of cure" often needed. We recommend that each agency provide Community Boards with a quarterly progress report on our requests expressed in the District Needs Statement, which continues to receive no attention or consideration. The community should have a clear understanding of what resources we have, what we do not have and why.

EDUCATION: A major priority is to keep with the many reforms implemented in our educational system. While we are aware of the many difficulties and problems such as: high enrollment rates, class overcrowding conditions (the issue of size becomes extremely important since our school system is responsible for educating 1.1 million students in 1,200 schools), students with special needs, high dropout rates, at-risk youth, and issues with academic under performance in critical areas, i.e. reading, math and the sciences. Our focus should be on ensuring that we properly develop our intellectual asset and by doing so we will develop a more qualified and diverse workforce. The proper investment in our educational system is sure to yield returns that will produce a more responsible and competitive workforce in the 21st century.

Bronx Community District #4 is home to many fine schools however, the Board continues to urge the Department of Education to create programs that partner with the private sector and other governmental entities, that will allow young people to recognize the importance of education, provide academic tutoring and life skills, receive mentoring services and job skills. The Board will work with these schools in order to provide support and advocacy. We believe that any formula for educational excellence would necessitate the Mayor's continued support and focus in the following areas: upgrading teacher quality standards, reforming high schools and middle

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schools, reinforcing math and science achievement goals, providing better “customer service” to parents, enhancing safety in and around the schools, improving the physical and social climate of our schools and cutting unnecessary bureaucracy and administrative costs. When we commit ourselves to providing adequate school facilities, adequate educational tools and resources and attract the best educators, then we can say that we have properly prepared our future workforce to adequately compete in the global market.

Chancellor Klein has repeatedly stated that he wants to “hear from advocacy groups, parent groups, community groups and business groups.” We continue to urge him to engage us as partners in the Department’s efforts to improving our educational system. We believe that it would be advantageous to the Department to establish a permanent liaison to attend, regularly, our District Service Cabinet and Committee meetings. The benefits associated from such a formal partnership, we believe would provide for a better understanding from parents and out overall community of the general needs the Department of Education. In addition, this open and inclusive process will afford the community to contribute to the process. The Department of Education must be accountable to parents and community residents by allowing them to play a meaningful role in deciding the future of our educational system.

While there is a need for more schools in the district, there is a great need for a middle school in the Highbridge section of our district. In Fiscal Year 2010 the Department of Education along with the School Construction authority provide for the construction of a new 400 seat facility in the Highbridge section of our district from seats left over from previous years however, we feel and community sentiment agrees that this is not adequately address the need that our children are facing. The concern is great in this community where a middle school child must take, in many cases a bus, a train, and a bus to attend school. A Child in this community will wake up early arrive home late only to be too tired or unable to focus on their studies. We urge the Department to re-explore options with the community and have a serious dialogue with the School Construction Authority and discuss building a facility that sufficiently provides for our children.

There needs to be a more aggressive push to develop access to ing for physical and musical instruction in our schools. Studies have shown that when a child is taught the fundamentals of healthy living he or she is likely to care of not only their well being but of the care and welfare of their peers. And as with music instruction research has found that it helps a child to increase the development of their cognitive and analytical awareness. That said, we urge the Department of Education to provide more physical and music programming.

We further call upon the City of New York through the School Construction Authority to be more considerate of Community’s as they continue to develop schools on toxic land. They must give due notification to the surrounding area of the site; they must report to the community on a regular basis; and they must follow all rules relating to remediation and site management.

TRANSPORTATION: The residents of this community district long ago voiced their anxieties and concerns about today’s traffic conditions. Transportation and traffic are of particular importance to us since aside from being the “Capitol District” of this County; Community District # 4 is also the geographic center of the metropolitan region.

Traffic along the East 161st Street corridor has been unbearable. However, with the completion of the new Bronx Criminal Court House, Lou Gehrig Plaza, the 161 Street Underpass renovation

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project, and the new Yankee Stadium project the situation, as predicted as become worse. This continues to be very problematic. And we are deeply saddened due to budget constraints that the Administration canceled the construction of the East 153rd Street Bridge. The project received the Art Commission Award for Excellence in Design and excellence in inter-agency coordination. The proposed bridge, a single tower cable stayed bridge, over the Old Mott Haven Rail yard, connecting Concourse Village West at the west end and Park Avenue at the east end. This would have been the first new bridge built in 50 years and it would have been the first cable-stayed vehicular bridge in New York State. We believed that the bridge would have eased traffic congestion along 149th and 161st Streets, as well as alleviate some of the congestion on local streets in the neighborhood and continue to advocate has to not to be redundant but to express to the Administration and the City the importance of this project to this community.

We continue to urge the expenditure of increased funds for sidewalk repair and fully support the increase of additional Highway Repairers for maintenance in general and for pothole and cave-in repairs specifically. The quality of materials and work should be more consistent, thereby eliminating the immediate reoccurrence of poor road conditions. We request the funding for milling work to support the agency's current in-house resurfacing program.

However, we would be remiss if we failed to note a major concern of this community, the lack of adequate parking throughout our commercial districts. We are encouraged by the exploration of initiating the PARK Smart pilot program in our Community Commercial Corridors. Community Board Four has long advocated for measures that allow for making parking easier while reducing congestion and improving safety. NYCDOT has made presentations at our Municipal Services Committee outlining the programs goals and purpose. We welcome the DOT to evaluate how the program would be beneficial to Community Board Four and will assist in the coordination of merchants, BIDs and other local stakeholders in developing this project.

It is our hope to increase the number of available metered parking spaces by encouraging motorists to park no longer than necessary and will work with the Agency to bring about the following:

- Increase safety
- Reduce double-parking
- Reduce pollution
- Reduce congestion from circling vehicles

In addition, the community is adamant in its request for continued discussions and studies toward a "Residential Parking Permit Program" for the Yankee Stadium area in the Civic Center. With the Grand Concourse Restoration project, slated for the Grand Concourse, between 161st and 171st Streets almost completed the concern of maintaining the greenery is a priority to Community Board Four.

We continue to make firm appeals to NYCDOT for the following: A traffic study to ease heavy and unsafe traffic conditions in the areas leading to the West bound and East bound I-95 N/S egress/ingress ramps at Jerome Avenue and the surrounding area. A bridge or overpass could connect Townsend Avenue South and North and Inwood Avenue South and North over the Cross Bronx Expressway. Conduct a survey to ascertain, where appropriate to install additional lighting to enhance safety and coordinate with the Department of Parks and Recreation to replace damaged light fixtures.

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS: Community Board # Four supports funding requests for this agency to maintain and increase safety inspection personnel, improve inspector training and recruitment. The agency's inspection and enforcement process is an essential support function to local community preservation efforts. It is essential that the agency initiate an educational component to educate the community on the City's building codes and provide monthly reports to the Community Board that outlines the agency's complaints and resolutions. It is important that codes are reviewed to determine if the City Sufficiently addresses "greening" in the coding for DOB and HPD.

HOUSING PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT: Our community in the past decade has undergone substantial rehabilitation of its housing stock and new housing growth. To increase the District's economic index, we support the development of affordable housing for moderate and middle-income individuals and families as an added element to our new housing stock. The lack of affordable housing is contributing to the flight of moderate and middle-income people from our district. It is in the interest of our Community District to promote economic diversity within our community. The development of the Bronx Civic Center should go hand in hand with the development of moderate and middle-income housing, which will also provide housing for workers in the Civic Center. We are strongly advocating for City and State funds for the middle-income new construction program and the creation of assisted living housing for seniors. Also HPD should inquire about the possibility of developing this type of housing within existing developments through mix-use zoning changes.

Community Board Four is a long term strong supporter of greening efforts. As such we call on HPD to collaborate with the Department of Buildings to development of new incentive programs for greening new developments and provide for new codes for new construction requiring green and sustainable elements. Further, we call for new codes requiring owners of existing buildings to upgrade and retrofit to meet green and sustainable standards with assistance from City for these upgrades.

The vacant land along District #4 Waterfront provides an excellent opportunity for the development of new middle to moderate income condos and/or co-op apartments. This area is primed for housing development particularly adjacent to the upcoming Gateway Center and new Yankee Stadium. We urge NYC HPD to aggressively pursue the possibility of building this type of housing along the waterfront.

Community District # Four has one of the largest stocks of Art Deco buildings in the nation, and we should make it our obligation to preserve them for historical and artistic reasons. Accordingly, we urge NYC HPD to employ a more concerted effort at effectively reaching building owners to encourage them to participate in the preservation and improvement of their Art Deco buildings in district #4. We cannot emphasize enough the need for continued and increased funding for preservation activities and for NYC HPD's active involvement with the Grand Concourse Historical District. Lastly, we urge the City to be creative as it plans toward rezoning in our District to seek innovative ways to further meet our building needs.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Year after year we have advocated for the increase in funding for youth program 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 that reflect persistent failure to our youth we are not providing them with the economic, educational and social opportunities they need to compete in an ever-changing global market.

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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.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING: One of the areas DFTA is responsible for is to ensure that seniors receive equitable and quality services. What are DFTA's short and long-term strategies to better meet the needs of the elderly population, in a changing environment? We kindly request that DFTA formulate and execute a plan to build stronger partnerships with consumers, community partners, advocates, private and public organizations. Sufficient funding must be allocated to service providers to adequately address service demands and to renovate senior service centers, where appropriate. Accordingly, we want DFTA to support the expansion and continuation of funding for senior centers to meet local needs and provide services for money management for seniors. Lastly, continue elder abuse training services and continue Adult Daycare Social Model and geriatric mental health services.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: As always we thank the continued efforts of the Officers and Leadership of the 44th Precinct, who have been a vital part of the crime reduction efforts. 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". With gang activity on the rise, it becomes imperative that sufficient funding be provided to place additional School Safety Officers in the confines of the 44th Precinct.

We thank Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Kelly for their efforts and concentration of increased police presence in Community Board Four. With the coordination of the Precinct Council, the Community Board, the Community Affairs Unit and the leadership of Precinct Commander, Dermot Shea we have upheld the high standards set at the 44th Pct. This community oriented standard will serve to enhance the partnership between the community and the police. This is what is most needed now and what has proven to be the most effective "weapon" that NYPD has. This community is "alive" with activities, events and programs that take place on an almost daily basis. As a result, the burden placed on our 44th Precinct Community Affairs Unit has increased as our population continues to grow. To improve communication between our agencies and to provide better outreach to our community residents, we ask that this agency consider the necessity to provide funding for technological and other upgrades for improved operational efficiency in the 44th Precinct Community Affairs unit. We also urge Deputy Inspector Shea to increase the number of Youth Officers now serving that unit. Additionally, we are requesting funding to support the Cadets and other youth oriented programs which have proven success and acclaim.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: We continue to strongly support an 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.

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As in last fiscal year we call for the Department to provide funds to expand the development of retrofitting EMS vehicles with a cooling system to refrigerate cold fluid pharmaceuticals needing temperature control.

Community Board #4, through its Municipal Services Committee, concurs that funding is needed to expand fire safety education and to duplicate additional learning centers for our borough. We call on the City to allocate adequate funding for FDNY public education programs that includes CPR training and to purchase smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to distribute yearly to the public.

We continue to urge the Department to restore the Bureau of Fire Investigations Bronx-based Office. The ability of Fire Marshals to investigate fires in the Bronx, already jeopardized by the initial move, will continue to be further impaired. And so we request that this agency provide us with a full statistical account on the impact these actions have had on Fire Marshal operations here in our district, with a view towards increasing Fire Marshal personnel to our community.

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. As a result, last year we experienced a fatality of a young child due to the inability to properly secure our hydrants. We do however commend DEP for the innovative "HEAT" program.

We have repeatedly advocated for the local police precinct (44th) to be in possession of the "special" wrenches so that they may expeditiously close all open hydrants. In the past, when contacting the agency we were advised that the agency's policy is to distribute these wrenches only to the Fire Department and sparingly at that. What steps DEP will take to prevent the public from opening fire hydrants? 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.

Community Board # Four urges an increase in field operations personnel in order to meet the current need for service delivery. We are requesting that adequate funds be allocated to hire additional Enforcement personnel to identify and initiate action against violators of the air pollution codes. In addition, we are pushing for DEP to conduct the following: A comprehensive survey of our catch basins along our high traffic/congested areas.

Lastly, we call for the participation and assist in the restoration of the Harlem River; re-connecting the waterfront with the people; recreating the water's edge; and reinvigorating "in-the-water" recreational and commercial activities. The interest extends along the full length of the river's edge to include the following parks and/or access points in District Four: Bridge Park, Depot Place, and Mill Pond Park.

DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION: We are pleased to observe that our Scorecard ratings have significantly improved. Yet, in order to maintain our current standing and to upgrade our cleanliness level. After all, the cleanliness level, or lack of in our streets, characterizes our district. We want to ensure that our image is a clean one. 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

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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 District #4 experiences difficulties having no regular cleaning and maintenance schedules for the extraordinary number of underpasses, step streets and sitting areas. The problem is the need for clarity in agency jurisdiction. Our repeated requests have been that DOS revisit the "Leventhal Agreement", which is ambiguous at best, so that a clear determination can be made and funding allocated accordingly. Additionally, we request the funding for additional Sanitation Enforcement Personnel and Sanitation Police.

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP:

Our community has a good number of small businesses and we strongly believe that those city agencies responsible for business development need to provide the kind of leadership, technical assistance and funding sources to improve the commercial landscape in our district and to assure the success of our merchants, generational businesses and WMBE's with their businesses.

There is very little vacant land remaining in this community district and as a result, it becomes crucial to use any available remaining space to its fullest capacity. Economic Development is a priority for this district; therefore, we recommend that agencies supporting economic development in partnership with the Bronx Borough President's Office and local development corporations, such as, B.O.E.D.C. and S.O.B.R.O. to initiate a search for potential developers for a Waterfront project in Community District # Four. We conclude that a Waterfront project, with the indicated amenities, will strengthen and highlight not only this community, but the Borough of the Bronx as well.

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 the needed 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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES: We have expressed our objections to the building of the Intake Center at East 151 Street and have conveyed our frustration of the over saturation of DHS-funded and/or operated sites in our district. We continue to advocate for the Department of Homeless Services to consider the siting of In-take Centers in each borough to equitably distribute the City's homeless population load. Furthermore, a listing of DHS funded and/or operated programs/facilities in district 4, including scattered site housing would assist us in formulating future needs as we are extremely concerned with DHS's siting policy and feel that the South and Central Bronx has been plagued by the over saturation of DHS-funded and/or operated sites. There needs to be a more cohesive approach with respect to Community Board oversight and input from DHS.

Providing us with an up to date report of DHS' homeless outreach would allow for a greater understanding of the effectiveness of these programs and how are they being evaluated for goal attainment. A popular phrase came into prominence several years ago, which was interpreted in a variety of ways and often misinterpreted. It is called "Fair Share." It was created on the assumption that it would assure that communities would get a reasonable amount of the "goodies" and an equitable amount of the "Bad (NIMBY) stuff". Despite good intentions, it has not benefited most Bronx districts. It certainly has not made District #4 community residents happy. On the contrary, we continue to receive far more than our fair share of facilities serving the homeless. This agency's policy continues to be "One City, One E.A.U." This policy places an unduly heavy burden on the

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people it serves as well as the district it is located in. It is unfair to both and it is deeply resented by both.

The placement of the EAU facility in our district and the plans to build a new EAU facility at this site is the single most spectacularly negative impact to our community. This EAU has been a magnet, attracting homeless from all boroughs and other states to our district, at all hours of the night. This dynamic creates the opportunity for homeless encampments in different parts of the district, including underpasses, step streets and commercial strips, when they are ineligible for homeless services and are rejected by the EAU. This detracts from the overall quality of life of our community. The presence of homeless on the streets poses a serious health threat to themselves and to the residents of the community. The continued failure to correct this problem leaves the city poorer, both in fiscal and in human resources.

Furthermore, we state for the record that our position on this issue is not based on a "NIM-BY" attitude. We have welcomed many projects for this population and we offered a different site for the EAU in our District. The location is not suitable. We continue to stress that a larger EAU facility will only drain an already limited police force in District #4. This area will soon be blooming and booming with new doors opening to greater tourist attractions, i.e., the new Yankee Stadium, Gateway Center Mall, access to the waterfront, etc., which is in the midst of our civic and cultural centers. Furthermore, we believe that the City did not do its part in their fair share analysis.

PARKS DEPARTMENT: We thank our elected and civic leaders for their continued support of the Joyce Kilmer Park Renovation Project. However, we continue to request for the completion of Joyce Kilmer's perimeter fencing work, to preserve the natural beauty and add to the security of this newly renovated Centerpiece Park. The Grant Avenue Park will provide much needed and essential open space and it will enable children to play in a secure and attractive surrounding. We urge the fast-tracking of Grant Park and for the appropriation of adequate funds for the continuation of the Grand Avenue Park Master Plan for which missed its April 2008 completion date. We appeal to the Department to review the use of synthetic turf, in depth, for the health and safety of the users. The re-seeding of grass, tree and bush pruning as well as park bench and other equipment repair continues to be a concern in our district. We continue to be distressed at progressive financial cuts suffered by this 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. It makes no difference how beautiful and well maintained the parks are if people are afraid to go into the park and enjoy its beauty. Money spent on maintenance upgrades should be matched with an equal amount spent on safety enhancements. They both go hand and hand.

Community Board #4 strongly supports adequate funding for street tree maintenance, for the placement of additional trees and where appropriate, as a safety measure install light metal grading around newly planted trees, for additional maintenance personnel, assistant gardeners, climbers and pruners, PEP Officers, city park workers, and for additional equipment for improved service delivery efforts.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE: We continue to recognize and appreciate the efforts undertaken by this agency for joining doctors, clinics, hospitals and community organizations to make HIV testing available to everyone in the Bronx. We are pleased that this agency understood our message and put a proper mechanism in place in order to continue the level of communication achieved by our mutual agencies, i.e., representation on the

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Board's District Service Cabinet meetings, etc., or else, all their good deeds will go unnoticed. This dynamic partnership affords us the ability to better inform the public on health-related concerns and at a faster rate.

Adequate funding must be provided in order to meet future challenges for it is critical that funds be available to enhance Health services where the needs are great with special attention to HIV/AIDS, Teen Pregnancy, Asthma, and Obesity. Failure to allocate sufficient funds to this agency will not move an agenda that will assist in meeting their mandated mission. But specifically, to mitigate the impact of health problems affecting minority groups and to provide educational outreach services for prevention programming, Immunization Efforts, and School Based Health Centers and Clinics. This is especially critical as we are about to come into the flu season. H1N1 prevention programming, awareness and information programming will be crucial this coming season. The overall public health will be contingent upon the how a strong coordinated effort involving all neighborhood stakeholders.


Community District #4 continues to support the agencies overall health goals and continues to stress the coordination of its community outreach efforts.

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:

Ms. D. Lee Ezell, Board Chair

Ms. Martha Reyes, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr. Health & Human Services Committee Chairperson

Rev. Earl McKay Housing & Land Use Committee Chairperson

Ms. Kathleen Saunders Municipal Services Committee Chairperson

Rev. Wenzell Jackson Parks Committee Chairperson

Youth & Education Committee