

City of New York

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Community Board No. 1

3 August 2012

Statement of Community District Needs

Fiscal Year 2014

Staten Island Community Board 1

Community Board 1 represents Staten Island's North Shore neighborhoods and our needs focus on waterfront and economic development; improving the transportation infrastructure, including the expansion of mass transit; enhancing services for our youngsters and our senior citizens; and, providing recreational opportunities in under served areas.

#### HEALTH

- Work with our Borough President and City Council delegation to identify funds to assist our existing health care facilities so they may better serve the residents of Staten Island.
- Move the Jersey Street Maintenance facility to the Fresh Kills Landfill to prevent illness from chemical sludge in the streets and idling truck fumes. Jersey Street is Staten Island's most economically depressed neighborhood.
- Improve the drainage/sewer system in the West New Brighton business corridor along Forest Avenue to avoid flooding basements and sewer back-ups that can become a public health risk.

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## WATERFRONT

- Construct the remaining 8 phases of the Lenape Indian Greenway Heritage Trail at a total cost of \$55 million.
- Create a retail corridor between the Grand Staircase of the Staten Island Ferry Terminal and Richmond Terrace. The structure should contain an indoor, multi-level garage and not interfere with the view corridor from the upland residents.
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist circulation between the Staten Island Ferry Terminal and the old Home Port (Iron State Development Site) by pulling back the fence surrounding the ferry maintenance facility closer to the building so that a sidewalk with lighting and benches can be built thereby allowing tourists and commuters the ability to traverse safely the distance between the “kiss and ride” area of the ferry terminal and the former Coast Guard site (Triangle Equities Site), Pier 1, Bay Street Landing and the Homeport Site (via Front Street).
- Change the circulation inside the terminal so that all commuters ALWAYS exit the ferry through the northern hallway so that they come into the vestibule directly in front of the Staten Island Visitor kiosk and the new COASHI offices in order to provide tourists the ability to easily and safely separate themselves from commuters and take a moment to see what Staten Island has to offer. Tourists become unnerved when they are caught up in a wave of fast moving commuters who are all headed north to buses, trains and taxis when the boat disembarks from the southern hallway. It is actually unsafe for them to slow down to read what little signage there is in the terminal or to explore their options so instead they get back on the boat. Forcing all passengers to exit through the northern hallway will allow for a natural separation of commuter and tourists without danger or fear.

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- Place LED signs above bus ramps stating the name of the Cultural Icons along the bus route. Currently there are no signs above buses saying "To Snug Harbor" "To Historic Richmond Town" "To Conference House Park". These simple signs will help tourists connect with Staten Island through mass transit.
- Apply for federal funding to repair the seawall and esplanade at Bay Street Landing and in Rosebank.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Transfer the title of the old SIUH on Castleton Avenue to NYC EDC so it could be developed as a mixed use property which will include a K-8 school and retail;
- Improve the streetscape of Targee Street from Vanderbilt Avenue to Sobel Court through a Small Business Services program;
- Increase the funding available to Northfield, West New Brighton, Downtown Council and fund the Victory Boulevard B.I.D;
- Release the phase II RFP for the Old Homeport and require the developer to build the core and shell of a community center or High School to serve the incoming residents of the area;
- Changing the zoning from the St. George Ferry Terminal to Snug Harbor to allow for buildings with commercial base and residential above that will create a pedestrian friendly experience along Richmond Terrace;
- Identify a cultural tenant for the Old Coast Guard Base; and,
- Release an RFP for an operator for the restaurant in the Richmond County Savings Bank Ball Park.

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## TRANSPORTATION

- Install Smart Lights along bus routes in the North Shore;
- Install Smart Lights along the SIE service roads;
- Construct a bus only road along what was once the North Shore Rail Line to connect commuters to the Bayonne Bridge; and,
- Allow small businesses located on Staten Island to participate in EZ Pass resident discount program for the Verrazano Narrows bridge;

## Quality of Life

- Halt any increases in property taxes;
- Stop health inspectors from harassing small businesses to the point of putting them out of business;

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- Restoring the funding for the new 120 Precinct;
- Hiring new police officers for the new 121 Precinct; and,
- Assigning additional Parks Enforcement Patrol Officers to our parks.

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Social/Educational

- Providing full access to technology in every school;
- Building more senior and workforce rental housing;
- Increasing funding to elder abuse prevention programs;
- Increasing DYCD funding, including CB youth coordinators; and,
- Siting and building a Rosebank Library.

CB1 believes these needs are prudent and fair.

Yours truly,

*Joseph Carroll*

Joseph Carroll, District Manager