

***Statements of Community
District Needs
and
Community Board
Budget Requests***

Fiscal Year
2023



Published by:



December 2021

**Brooklyn
Community District
8**

INTRODUCTION

The annual Statements of Community District Needs (CD Needs Statements) and Community Board Budget Requests (Budget Requests) are Charter mandates that form an integral part of the City's budget process. Together, they are intended to support communities in their ongoing consultations with city agencies, elected officials and other key stakeholders and influence more informed decision making on a broad range of local planning and budget priorities. This report also provides a valuable public resource for neighborhood planning and research purposes, and may be used by a variety of audiences seeking information about New York City's diverse communities.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

This report represents the Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board, collected through an online form available to community boards from July to November, 2021.

Community boards may provide substantive supplemental information together with their Statements and Budget Requests. This supporting material can be accessed by clicking on the links provided in the document or by copying and pasting them into a web browser, such as Chrome, Safari or Firefox.

If you have questions about this report or suggestions for changes please contact:
CDNEEDS_DL@planning.nyc.gov

This report is broadly structured as follows:

1. Overarching Community District Needs

Sections 1 – 4 provide an overview of the community district and the top three pressing issues affecting this district overall as identified by the community board. Any narrative provided by the board supporting their selection of their top three pressing issues is included.

2. Policy Area-Specific District Needs

Section 5 is organized by seven distinct policy areas aligned with the service and program areas of city agencies. For each policy area, community boards selected the most important issue for their districts and could provide a supporting narrative. The policy area section also includes any agency-specific needs and a list of relevant budget requests submitted by the community board. If the community board submitted additional information outside of a specific policy area, it may be found in Section 6.

3. Community Board Budget Requests

The final section includes the two types of budget requests submitted to the City for the FY23 budget cycle; one list for capital and another for expense budget requests. For each budget request, community boards were able to provide a priority number, explanation, location, and supporters. OMB remains the definitive source on budget requests submitted to city agencies.

Disclaimer

This report represents the Statements of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests of this Community District for Fiscal Year 2023. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board.

Budget Requests: Listed for informational purposes only. OMB remains the definitive source on budget requests and budget request responses.

Budget Priorities: Priority numbers apply to expense and capital Budget requests from all policy areas. A complete list of expense and capital budget requests by this Board sorted by priority can be found in Section 7 of this document.

Supporting Materials: Some community boards provided substantive supplemental information. This supportive material can be accessed by clicking on the links provided in the document or by copying and pasting the links provided in the Appendix into a browser.

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1. COMMUNITY BOARD INFORMATION

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Address: 1291 St. Marks Avenue

Phone: (718) 467-5574

Email:

Website: www.brooklyncb8.org

Chair: Irsa Weatherspoon

District Manager: Michelle George

2. 2020 CENSUS DATA

The following two pages contain data from the most recent 2020 Decennial Census, which includes basic demographic and housing characteristics for New York City, the borough, and this community district. The data also includes a view of change over time since 2010.

New York City

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percentage Point
AGE							
Total population	8,175,133	100.00	8,804,190	100.00	629,057	7.7	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	1,768,111	21.6	1,740,142	19.8	-27,969	-1.6	-1.8
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN							
Total population	8,175,133	100.0	8,804,190	100.0	629,057	7.7	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	2,336,076	28.6	2,490,350	28.3	154,274	6.6	-0.3
White non-Hispanic	2,722,904	33.3	2,719,856	30.9	-3,048	-0.1	-2.4
Black non-Hispanic	1,861,295	22.8	1,776,891	20.2	-84,404	-4.5	-2.6
Asian non-Hispanic	1,028,119	12.6	1,373,502	15.6	345,383	33.6	3.0
Some other race, non-Hispanic	78,063	1.0	143,632	1.6	65,569	84.0	0.6
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	148,676	1.8	299,959	3.4	151,283	101.8	1.6
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total housing units	3,371,062	100.0	3,618,635	100.0	247,573	7.3	0.0
Occupied housing units	3,109,784	92.2	3,370,448	93.1	260,664	8.4	0.9
Vacant housing units	261,278	7.8	248,187	6.9	-13,091	-5.0	-0.9

Brooklyn

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percentage Point
AGE							
Total population	2,504,700	100.00	2,736,074	100.00	231,374	9.2	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	594,378	23.7	595,703	21.8	1,325	0.2	-1.9
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN							
Total population	2,504,700	100.0	2,736,074	100.0	231,374	9.2	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	496,285	19.8	516,426	18.9	20,141	4.1	-0.9
White non-Hispanic	893,306	35.7	968,427	35.4	75,121	8.4	-0.3
Black non-Hispanic	799,066	31.9	729,696	26.7	-69,370	-8.7	-5.2
Asian non-Hispanic	260,129	10.4	370,776	13.6	110,647	42.5	3.2
Some other race, non-Hispanic	15,904	0.6	37,579	1.4	21,675	136.3	0.8
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	40,010	1.6	113,170	4.1	73,160	182.9	2.5
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total housing units	1,000,293	100.0	1,077,654	100.0	77,361	7.7	0.0
Occupied housing units	916,856	91.7	1,009,804	93.7	92,948	10.1	2.0
Vacant housing units	83,437	8.3	67,850	6.3	-15,587	-18.7	-2.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary Files
Population Division, New York City Department of City Planning

Brooklyn Community District 8

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percentage Point
AGE							
Total population	96,317	100.00	108,259	100.00	11,942	12.4	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	20,724	21.5	18,521	17.1	-2,203	-10.6	-4.4
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN							
Total population	96,317	100.0	108,259	100.0	11,942	12.4	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	11,498	11.9	14,131	13.1	2,633	22.9	1.2
White non-Hispanic	16,056	16.7	31,077	28.7	15,021	93.6	12.0
Black non-Hispanic	63,111	65.5	49,705	45.9	-13,406	-21.2	-19.6
Asian non-Hispanic	2,712	2.8	5,451	5.0	2,739	101.0	2.2
Some other race, non-Hispanic	636	0.7	1,467	1.4	831	130.7	0.7
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	2,304	2.4	6,428	5.9	4,124	179.0	3.5
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total housing units	43,351	100.0	49,525	100.0	6,174	14.2	0.0
Occupied housing units	39,852	91.9	46,222	93.3	6,370	16.0	1.4
Vacant housing units	3,499	8.1	3,303	6.7	-196	-5.6	-1.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary Files
Population Division, New York City Department of City Planning

Statement on Data Accuracy

Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau is legally bound to protect the privacy of individuals participating in the decennial census. To adhere to the law and to avoid the disclosure of information about individual respondents, the Census Bureau has historically applied a host of techniques, such as top- and bottom-coding, imputation, table- and cell-suppression, and data swapping. The Census Bureau is employing a new technique with the 2020 Census, referred to as the Disclosure Avoidance System (DAS), based on differential privacy. With this approach, the Census Bureau “infuses noise” systematically across census data and sets a quantified disclosure risk, referred to as the Privacy Loss Budget (PLB).

While the new DAS approach may diminish the risk of disclosure concerns, it comes at a cost to data accuracy. Consequently, 2020 Census data users should be aware that all sub-state counts, except for housing units (which are unaffected by the DAS), may be adjusted to protect the privacy of Census participants and may be subject to reduced accuracy. Because DAS noise infusion is randomized, it is impossible for data users to know the degree to which any individual statistic is altered. However, it is possible to say that in general the relative size of errors decreases as counts increase. Consequently, data users should have greater confidence in the accuracy of the data as counts get larger. Further, an evaluation of a Privacy-Protected Microdata File (PPMF), treated with a Disclosure Avoidance System like the one applied to 2020 redistricting data, showed that counts of 300 or more rarely have sizable errors (error beyond +/- 10% of the count). Therefore, while data users need to be cognizant of data accuracy limitations, they should have confidence in conclusions based on sizable counts, which are relatively unaffected by the Census Bureau’s latest disclosure avoidance method.

3. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Community Board No. 8 encompasses the neighborhoods of North Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, and Weeksville, and is bounded by Atlantic Avenue on the north, Ralph Avenue on the east, Eastern Parkway on the south and Flatbush Avenue on the west. The Districts' resident demographics and socio-economic statuses are ever-evolving for many reasons, and some of the changing statuses have caused tensions between residents that do not share the same intersections. The ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic continues to illustrate the multiple disparities and intersections of New York City residents and are far reaching across education, healthcare, housing security or lack thereof, food resources, open space options, transportation networks and infrastructure, policing, socioeconomic factors, and much more.

Additionally, the raging Covid-19 Pandemic and measures to overcome and subdue dangers of virus transmission have further increased tensions between residents, the New York Police Department (NYPD) and even Mayoral agencies. For instance, due to the need for open spaces, more streetscape spaces have been allocated for open use by the hospitality industry, for recreation outside of parks and playgrounds, and educational purposes for schools. This in turn has increased tensions as more and more residents call for a complete redesign of street usage for other than what has been termed "free car storage," and advocate for alternative transportation options that are ableist in intention, is causing friction as a growing contingency of NYPD officers continue to publicly battle Mayor DeBlasio's mask and vaccine mandates and get into increased altercations with citizens demanding that officers wear a mask as everyone else is required to do, and even causing issues with residents that do not have school-aged children over how and where a child can learn. Needless to say, there is a widening chasm developing between residents, and it is imperative that a delicate balance be maintained where all feel heard and accommodated.

There are, however, additional situations that are leading to tensions between residents. Rising rents are causing the merger of many families into smaller units and forcing the need for apartment shares by those incapable of affording monthly rent rates without the assistance of their extended families and friends. This in turn reduces the amount of necessary personal space and resources for individuals to decompress while at home. Consequently, due to the increased number of people in a smaller space, with or without the Covid Pandemic, it is imperative that sufficient recreational activities outside of the home be present within the community to provide mental health respites and calming and soothing effects. These spaces ideally would be multi-functional, serving the purposes of not only physical activity, but meditation, relaxation, communication, and fostering community attributes among other things. Moreover, the needs of children must also be prioritized as more and more families and younger adults looking to start families are moving into the district. Much like the needs of the City's senior and elderly populations, the needs of children have been long ignored in our district with few resources allocated for their growth, development, and creativity. Thus, just like the need for senior activities, there is a need for greater child-based activities across a multitude of demographics has arisen and must be addressed quickly in a manner that allows everyone access regardless of their socio-economic status.

We understand that change is necessary, is not always linear, and is not always accepted by everyone. However, there are ways that an equitable as possible approach can be made to benefit as many as possible without disproportionately harming the most vulnerable. An alarmingly high decrease in truly affordable housing units available in the district, especially for seniors and low and middle-income residents; lack of quality medical services and hospital coverage; uncertain public school options due to a suspect determination on school utilization rates causing constant school closures and co-locations; unaddressed mental and economic stresses amongst a multitude of the district's population; and property owners willing to flout the city's reach in terms of either recouping losses, maintaining habitable conditions, or even basic maintenance for public safety are issues all requiring ample priority and attention from government officials. These needs were necessary prior to the Covid Pandemic and have become even more necessary as a result of the issues brought to the forefront during the continuing Pause and re-opening efforts.

We are hopeful that the record \$99 billion budget for FY 2022 will ameliorate numerous issues that were brought to the forefront during the initial stages of the Covid-19 Pandemic and that continue to flourish. The proceeding narratives and budget requests will hopefully help the City determine how best to assist the residents of Brooklyn Community Board 8 during FY 2023 and beyond.

4. TOP THREE PRESSING ISSUES OVERALL

Brooklyn Community Board 8

The three most pressing issues facing this Community Board are:

Infrastructure resiliency

Infrastructure and resiliency are not merely about modernizing roads and bridges, reducing carbon emissions, battling the earth's rate of heat absorption, reliance on fossil fuels, and other standard methods for combatting climate change. Instead, the foci of infrastructure and resilience enters every facet of city life, including residual reaches such as new development, resident comfort, trash disposal, neighborhood beautification projects, and event arts and entertainment/leisure activities. It is imperative that mayoral agencies use a broad brush when implementing programs with bases of resilience, modernization, and even self-sufficiency. Outside the box thinking with a mindset on the long-term future rather than the immediate decade or two are essential if any progress is to be made in moving New York City into a sustainable future. Concentrating on District 8, we are fortunate to have an extensive bike lane network on east-west travel lanes to assist with the movement from reliance on personal vehicles to alternative modes of transportation. We understand the need for additional bike lanes on our north-south corridors, however, many of the bike lanes in our district are overburdened due to roadway imperfections, construction barricades, and double parking by both delivery vehicles and personal vehicles. While there are some that believe the answer to freeing bike lanes is to create protected bike lanes and implement "floating" parking lanes, many bikers and drivers alike will tell you that this is not the best solution as it creates additional unforeseen issues for all street uses, and additionally creates unnecessary line-of-sight dangers causing possible collisions. As such, we advocate for installation of additional loading zones along our commercial corridors and the issuance of summonses for double parked personal vehicles that create hazardous conditions. Furthermore, to create a resilient streetscape with parity and fairness, we advocate for careful consideration of equitable traffic and transit studies so that vehicle drivers alone do not feel stressed, thus causing driver angst and leading to aggressive driving out of frustration. Sadly, the conversation to remove people from their vehicles is a very ableist perspective, and not many recognize that there are those that do not have the physical capabilities to walk, bike, or even the endurance to take public transportation. While bike lanes are a wonderful addition to the streetscape, the reduction of travel lanes and the resultant squeeze of vehicles in less space has created an inorganic traffic condition that feeds the belief that vehicles are the sole source of the problem when the problem results from everyone on the road: bikers that disregard traffic laws and do not use lights/reflectors; pedestrians that do not pay attention to rules of the road and jaywalk, walk between cars, walk while distracted, etc. We all have a part to play in keeping our streets safe for all. Moving toward other aspects of resiliency, we applaud the bioswale/rain garden initiative implemented by the Department of Environmental Protection. However, we recognize that the program does not go far enough or extend well enough to assist with storm water runoff. Notwithstanding the decrepit look of many bioswales, a vast number of trees within them have died in less than one season, many have overgrown grass plantings, and garbage and dirt that accumulates in them due to lack of regular cleaning and maintenance. As such, we urge not only additional attention to be paid to the rain gardens, but also an expansion of other programs to assist with storm water runoff. Furthermore, previous requests for incentives for homeowners to create greenspace on their properties and roofs have largely been ignored by the administration. The desire of homeowners to concretize their property in a feeble effort to minimize rodent populations have only aided in the increase of storm water flooding and over burdening the city's aging storm drain systems. We encourage the use of permeable concrete and walkways whenever the city does such work on pathways, increase private property plantings and shrubbery that can assist with water capture, as well as widening storm drains and pipes to be able to accommodate increased loads. Property owners with gardens, greenspaces, and greenroofs should be encouraged to use rain barrels to capture rainwater to water their plantings and provided with financial incentives for their efforts in the form of property tax cuts. Again, this will have many positive benefits that will immediately pay for themselves in health, finance, cleaner air, and many other areas of life. Additional resiliency measures related to the reduction of carbon emissions should include not only incentives for property owners to install solar panels on their roofs, but also a demand that developers build passive and green buildings. Installation of solar panels to provide electricity to the city's massive network of streetlamps should also be considered as the sun is a valuable free energy resource. The

ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has illustrated the wide-ranging network of interdependency as well as unnecessary financial burdens when private companies are unable to cover the needs of the government and private citizens. While the city's self-sufficiency cannot be entirely assured, working together, our elected leaders can implement specific measures that will reduce the financial burden in many areas. Solar panels to power streetlamps is a start, along with the consideration of using the city's wide waterway arc for hydropower. Not only would hydropower plants off the shores of our waterways reduce carbon emissions by utilizing and creating clean, sustainable power sources, it will also generate capital create high paying jobs, and increase income and self-sufficiency for the city and state. Additionally, we urge serious consideration of using city-owned land for the installation of biodigesters to handle the massive quantities of food waste generated by the city's 8.4 million residents. A biodigester is a system that breaks down and digests organic material. Microbes and other bacteria, and most food, including fat, greases, and even animal manure, can be processed in one. Because biodigesters are a closed system, they give off no odor from food waste, thus eliminating flies and reducing rodents, which is a growing issue for District 8 and the city as a whole. Residents have complained of feasts for rodents on garbage nights as well as rats visible during daylight hours, so we firmly believe that increased organics collection and utilization of biodigesters can assist the city with a holistic approach to controlling the rodent population. Additionally, another benefit of biodigesters is the cost-savings for garbage hauling by reducing weight shipped to landfills as well as the amount of space necessary to house the city's trash. Furthermore, one of the great benefits of biodigesters is that they are eco-friendly and will reduce the city's carbon footprint significantly. Food scraps and other organic materials decaying in landfills release methane and carbon dioxide contributing to climate change. Employment of biodigesters will help New York City reach its 2050 goals and possibly exceed them not only for our physical location, but to the areas we haul our trash to. Moreover, there are financial benefits to biodigesters as well, as similarly to hydropower, biodigesters create efficient sustainable fuel and power sources in the form of biogas, which can be stored and used as a sustainable energy source for electricity, cooking, and heating. Biogas is an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuel-derived energy. Utilizing biogas will help the city decrease the need for energy from the Con Edison electrical grid, cutting back electricity costs for agencies and residents while also decreasing the likelihood of brown and blackouts. Finally, digestate, the resultant byproduct of biodigesters, is rich in organic nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, and can be used to fertilize crops, improve soil quality, and the city can even increase revenue by the city selling digestate as fertilizer to upstate farmers and farmers nationwide. Infrastructure and resiliency also include housing, which remains a solid top two issue in Brooklyn Community Board 8 primarily affordable housing for those living below the 90% AMI percentile, which is roughly about half of the population of our residents. When people are forced to worry about their sustainable housing needs, they worry about other things as well. When people are forced to spend the majority of their monthly net income on housing needs, other aspects of their lives are impacted and/or ignored, and certain things, such as medical care and healthy eating, suffer as a result. Unfortunately, in District 8, and for a growing number of New York City residents, housing remains a source of great discomfort, thus leading to issues of concern across numerous areas of city life. If baseline needs are not met, the result is usually an increase in mental health issues such as depression or anger related lashing out, increased crime, decreased productivity, increased substance abuse, increased cases of preventable diseases, increased discord between neighbors, and so much more. As such, we urge the city to shift its focus from the creation of more luxury housing to provide the affordable housing needed in small doses, and instead focus on maintaining the affordable housing already present in the form of rent stabilized buildings and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) housing. Reliance on trickle down affordable housing hidden within massive development projects that are not really affordable to those they seek to serve is not the answer just as trickle down economics did nothing to serve the financial needs of the bottom 99%.

Land use trends (zoning, development, neighborhood preservation, etc.)

During the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, the lack of affordable housing for residents citywide became too glaring to ignore. For over a decade, the data indicating that residents were rent-burdened was available, but this data was largely ignored as more and more private "luxury" development with scant truly affordable housing was created. Complicating matters further were rent-stabilized units being renovated leading to much higher rates than the majority could afford, thus furthering the rent crisis. The conversion of small private homes to luxury condominiums also outside of the price range for most residents combined with the growing market of illegal short-term rentals, such as private hotels and hostels, contributes to the spiraling affordable housing crisis in District 8 and New York City as a whole. Reports that a good portion of the city's residents were one paycheck away from homelessness,

while not necessarily falling on deaf ears, still did not lead to any real measures to end the rent burden crisis. Many residents believe that greed still abounds, programs such as Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) that have proven vastly insufficient at creating truly affordable housing are still touted as the savior of affordable housing in the city despite alarming rates of resident displacement telling a different story. Furthermore, residents in income brackets not covered by Housing Connect's "affordable" housing program are still ignored and left to compete for the few rent stabilized units that they can manage. There are many that believe private development from up-zoning is the only way to curb the affordability crisis, as the glut of market rate units will ultimately create such competition that developers will charge less money for their units to avoid high vacancy rates. If history has taught us anything, however, it is that the trickle-down effect is neither true nor valid. Luxury and market-rate units at the helm of all current land use and zoning trends remain at an alarmingly high vacancy rate while non-market rate stabilized units have hardly any vacancies. Preserving the character of our community is one of our greatest priorities. Historic designation of multiple areas was designed to assist with this goal, and efforts continue to push toward expanded historic districts, including a recently proposed Prospect Heights Historic Apartments District featuring the apartment buildings on land initially set aside for the construction of Prospect Park. Furthermore, District 8 has seen a dramatic increase in conversions of single and two-family homes to multiple family homes (usually condominiums) in our District as vacant land is scarce in development. These enlargement projects deleteriously impact adjacent neighbors with myriad forms of pollution (noise, dust/debris, air quality, light), structural damage to foundations, and many other ways. The end result is usually a combination of a jarringly altered landscape with buildings antithetical to the charming aesthetic of Community Board 8 as well as increased tensions between those affected by the conversions and those benefiting from them that know not of the nuisance the creation of their home caused. Additionally, the neighborhood-wide MCROWN re-zoning proposal that was approved, re-approved, and ratified by Community Board 8 members in 2016 provided to the NYC Department of City Planning a vision for the manufacturing zone bounded by Grand Avenue and Franklin Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Bergen Street, with the two northerly blocks of Atlantic Avenue from Vanderbilt Avenue to Washington Avenue. Sadly, in the years since the proposal first reached DCP, the proposal continues to languish as the agency makes no movement on approving it, and private up-zoning applications are increasing and decimating the vision. Initial statements on why the neighborhood re-zoning could not be ratified were because of budgetary constraints; however, the city's record high \$99 billion budget still does not include the funds necessary to preserve the integrity of this valuable land for jobs and much needed affordable housing creation. A recent public hearing on two private applications within this zone led to multiple statements from CB8 members and residents alike that they believe DCP to be intentionally disregarding the Board's re-zoning proposal in honor of private applications that do not serve the community. Finally, existing large-scale development projects such as Pacific Park/Atlantic Yards Development, pose an ongoing nuisance condition in our community. Unfortunately, as these large-scale projects are usually not overseen by agencies of New York City and are instead, state overseen projects, city agencies are often times unable to assist with resident complaints and amelioration of issues. We urge the Mayor's office to allow for additional oversight into these projects, specifically Pacific Park/Atlantic Yards, as there is little community benefit while ongoing issues increase damaging effects on the quality of life for residents.

Parks and open space

The state of New York sets a goal of 2.5 acres of open space for every 1,000 people, and the New York City average is 1.5 acres per 1,000. Unfortunately, due to enhanced development in the District, our residents are falling short with government mandates for open space. The pressing Covid-19 Pandemic has made it impossible to ignore just how precious and necessary open space is. Scientific directives that sent people outdoors for exercise, socializing, and even eating in the name of safety has illustrated the paucity of open space necessary to keep residents safe while providing a plethora of activity options. The parks and playgrounds in our District continue to be stretched thin, and the decaying infrastructure primarily the fitness equipment in many of our parks led residents to avoid them even when outdoor activity was the safest way to be active and obtain the health benefits of being outdoors in fresh air and sunlight. While there is a growing trend of creating "open space" on rooftops or small individual terraces in new developments, these exclusive spaces are nowhere near adequate to provide the recreational need required to maintain proper mental and physical health. For decades, sanctioned studies have found that open space and recreational activities provides substantial mental respite to aid in creating a happier and healthier population. The "Pause" confirmed this. With myriad mental health issues still on the rise even as the world re-opens, we continue to advocate for the use of vacant lots for community gardens and open space areas to provide

greenspace for resident enjoyment. Nature is healing, and the concrete jungle that is New York City requires as much open space as possible. Additionally, in District 8, the streets used during the Open Streets Initiative to provide additional car-free space for recreation, were quite effective in the beginning, but over time, as the City continues to re-open, some are less effective and used than others. While there are many residents that would like to see Open Streets and Open Restaurants continue, there are just as many that call upon officials to immediately end the programs until such time as the resultant issues they cause such as traffic jams due to road closures, noise from outdoor speakers that would normally not be allowed, late-night noise from a massive influx of sidewalk cafes, rodents and other vermin, and so much more have mitigatable solutions. Furthermore, the glaring lack of quality fresh food for many residents especially on the eastern end of the district dictates that we also advocate for the City to provide incentives to property owners to create green roofs and participate in small scale urban gardening in their yards and roof space as well as using rain gardens/bioswales to assist as stated in the Infrastructure/resiliency section. This will have multiple beneficial effects across numerous areas of need, not relegated to only open space, but also dietary benefits, stress release, street cleanliness, etc. Gardening is an activity studies have shown decreases stress, aids relationship building, and also assists with several other disorders. Moreover, locally grown food allows for healthier meals and less exhaust from food delivery; plantings absorb rainwater runoff, and the rooftop gardens absorb sunlight and heat, lowering cooling costs. Anything that the city loses in tax revenue to finance and subsidize the incentive programs will be regained in other areas. Furthermore, those benefiting from the program will be healthier and likely happier, creating a more positive atmosphere in the city overall. Children will also be imbued with a healthy relationship with nature, the city's wildlife population will have space to cohabitate with humans that have invaded and removed all of their space, and the like. Additionally, seeing as right of way bioswales/rain gardens have proven to be ill-kept over time. Furthermore, many residents remain dissatisfied with the Parks Department's handling of street trees. Most residents are dissatisfied with the pruning schedule of trees, the inability of multiple agencies to work together to solve simple issues that merely require inter-agency cooperation (for instance, the Dept. of Transportation raising or lowering a street sign to prevent Parks from having to cut off half the canopy of a perfectly healthy tree for the sign to be visible; DOT adding a second arm to a streetlight should the adult healthy tree's foliage block light, etc.). In addition to pruning, residents often complain about the lack of cleanliness, lighting, parks enforcement, illegal activity and drug use in parks and playgrounds. As well as outdated play equipment and features, and the fact that parks are overrun with dogs off leash. As many of District 8's residents became pet owners during the continued Covid-19 Pause, the call and need for a dog-run in the District grew louder. Needless to say, we urge conversations between Parks officials, the Community Board, and residents to address many of the issues presented.

5. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Health Care and Human Services

Animal and pest control services

Recent years have shown a dramatic increase in rodent sightings in District 8. While we understand that rats are a citywide problem that has existed for decades, we also understand that better efforts need to be made to ameliorate the problem. For instance, better baiting practices can be employed, and especially around development sites and construction projects. DOHMH can mandate that a periphery of a site (including surrounding areas NOT part of the site) be baited in lieu of the mandated property perimeter that exists currently. Additional restrictions on the type of receptacle considered acceptable for trash disposal can be considered, as well as mandatory containerized collection for schools, NYCHA properties, residential properties greater than four (4) units, and so forth. Education about littering and composting could also be beneficial. Moreover, DOHMH working with other municipal service agencies such as the Dept. of Sanitation to remove rubbish from streets and prevent pile-up, would also serve a great purpose in helping to staunch the food piles that rodents seek.

Community District Needs Related to Health Care and Human Services

Needs for Health Care and Facilities

We encourage additional one stop-shop clinics and health care centers that provide many if not all health care services of a hospital. Facilities such as these that offer simple outpatient minor surgery, health screenings, dialysis, asthma treatment, MRIs and CT scans, walk-in services, etc., are a great addition to the community, especially since our District does not have a hospital. While we are not advocating for such small care medical centers to replace hospital care, they are convenient, easily accessible, and provide necessary services to many residents that otherwise would not seek medical care. In addition to these centers, we hope they will offer more comprehensive mental health and substance abuse care/preventative services.

Needs for Older NYs

A growing and often neglected population, our senior population requires special services and care that should come automatically to a class of well-deserving citizens. We need to recognize and reward the efforts and hard work of our senior population by providing them the fundamental means of existing above the Federal poverty line, which unfortunately for many seniors living in New York City, is not a reality with rising medical and health costs, and increasing rent and property tax burdens. As proponents of elderly care and in recognition of the special needs of the elderly in District 8, we appeal to a course of action that will make this goal possible. More services focused on improving the quality of life, residential opportunities, home-care and health-care need to be provided by City-operated and neighborhood based agencies. Services should focus on the ignored and forgotten portion of seniors that earn too much to be eligible for Medicaid, and consequently do not qualify for Medicaid paid services as well as those that earn too much to qualify for low income senior housing opportunities.

We acknowledge the City's efforts to increase eligibility for certain services such as SCRIE and DRIE and property tax breaks by raising the maximum yearly income. However, more needs to be done as to be eligible for the programs, seniors must still bear a large cost burden. SCRIE and DRIE should be available to every senior, not just those that are paying more than 30% of their income in rent. Factors such as taxes on income, healthcare insurance costs, medical and prescription copays, basic necessities, and the like need to be factored in as well, since it is net income that is the livable income. Finally, an emphasis on home-care will help reduce costly institutional care and the burdens placed upon kin that serve as caregivers, and will also provide additional freedom to relatively self-sufficient individuals.

Finally, the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic illustrated that many seniors are very capable of using technology if they have the tools and education available to them. We must consider ensuring that every senior has a device that will allow them to stay in contact with their loved ones and social networks, especially in situations where we have to isolate and distance for safety.

Needs for Homeless

Affordable housing and limiting landlord greed will assist with dispelling homelessness. Affordable housing begins looking at the net pay that tenants have available to spend on rent, not gross.

Needs for Low Income NYs

As more and more people become economically unstable, it is imperative that adequate services be available for them to make their financial statuses more secure. Education and training programs, housing assistance programs, and cash and food assistance programs are all needed to help the economically vulnerable get back on their feet. Additionally, since cash-strapped homes can lead to rising tensions between partners, domestic violence prevention programs are needed to dispel anger and angst that might otherwise be taken out on domestic partners. Feelings of inadequacy can arise from people that feel as though they are failing in their attempts to be good parents, partners/spouses, caregivers, etc., and thus can contribute to substance abuse related issues as a means of escapism. Support in areas of social services must include addiction treatment options and counseling to help people understand that their perceived failures are not worth the risk of their health, well-being, and relationships. Programs designed to assist with coping with issues often outside of an individual's control must be provided and easily accessible. HRA/DSS must work with DOHMH to create these programs. Finally, our elderly must be looked after. They must be cared for and their safety from abuse and predatory behavior ensured. Services to help educate them on signs and symptoms of elder abuse and education to prevent falling victim to scams are needed.

Capital Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

The Community Board did not submit any Budget Requests in this category.

Expense Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
2/37	DOHMH	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations	<i>Community Board 8 residents have expressed dissatisfaction with DOHMH's response to the rodent epidemic in the neighborhood and citywide. The large number of development, renovation, and enlargement projects in the district and citywide have disrupted rodent burrows to the point where rodents are visible during daylight hours. Residents and CB8 staff and members overwhelmingly support DOHMH implementing a policy change mandating that developers bait more than just the perimeter of their projects and instead bait a wider berth, as well as the city enforcing harsh penalties on properties that do not perform abatement to allow the city the opportunity to focus on other health related issues and needs.</i>	
3/37	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance rental assistance programs/vouchers for permanent housing	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the substantial rent burden that residents citywide and especially in District 8 face. We applaud the efforts of City and State officials for allocating funds to help residents pay rental arrears during the Pandemic. Unfortunately, more funds are needed as the crisis is not over, and funds are needed for a wider array of residents. The definition of rent burden should be expanded beyond the current 30% of gross annual salary so that a greater number of residents can qualify for rental assistance vouchers to help them cover the gap between the affordable and unaffordable, to avoid rent burden.</i>	

10/37	DFTA	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims	<i>Too often, our elders are too ashamed or afraid to speak up for themselves, leading them to suffer continued abuse at the hands of caregivers or even strangers. We encourage DFTA to increase outreach efforts and initiate public service announcements to inform seniors of their options and services should they ever come face to face with elder abuse. We also advocate for increased public awareness programs to help people identify the signs and signals of elder abuse.</i>
12/37	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services	<i>We must keep in mind that our vulnerable population is at risk for abuse from family members and home health aides seeking to take advantage of their frail emotional and physical states. They require considerable attention to maintain their safety and well-being, thus preventing them from being subjected to unnecessary hardship, pain, and mental aggravation in the form of fear.</i>
14/37	DOHMH	Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment	<i>The stigma of admitting to having a mental illness is great, especially in immigrant and communities of color where sentiments such as "mental illness is not a disease you can afford to have," continue to be a plague. This stigma prevents those suffering from symptoms from seeking help. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has certainly illustrated the need for mental health programs and greater understanding of the issues and the ways mental health issues can manifest and be expressed. The often repeated phrase, "mental health issues are not something you can afford to have" can no longer be said as everyone is experiencing some sort of mental strain at this time. Programs are needed to address the stigma because many more are willing to acknowledge their issues courtesy of the pandemic.</i>

17/37	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance educational programs for adults	<i>The state-wide shutdown (Pause) caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic illustrated just how few households and individuals have the tools and resources available to them to properly budget based on their income. Financial education and planning is direly needed in less economically advantaged households. Due to the inevitability of having to stretch their finances even further than they are capable, it is imperative that residents have access to financial planning and budgeting information to learn how to properly plan their monthly spending. This financial literacy is not about just getting a better job to increase income as the Pause has taught us just how important low-paying jobs are, as well as how easily distressed a household can become with just a small reduction in income.</i>
18/37	HRA	Other domestic violence services requests	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has brought to the surface many glaring needs for households and families experiencing violence in the home. The state-wide shutdown (Pause) that kept people at home for months created a funnel effect amplifying abuse in homes as no one had an opportunity for escape. It is imperative that funding be provided for preventative services to educate individuals all ages on the signs of abuse, whether physical, emotional, sexual, and psychological, and how to exit a situation that could be potentially life threatening. Furthermore, abusers should have multiple forms of assistance at their disposal to assist them in overcoming their root and core issues that causes their disruptive behavior.</i>
20/37	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	<i>We urge the City to eliminate smoking in multiple dwellings and also increase awareness of the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke as well as consider legislation making all multiple dwelling buildings smoke-free. Residents of multiple dwelling units face an often times forgotten issue: any resident living next to or upstairs from a smoker, is subject to secondhand smoke intrusion, which studies have shown is just as toxic if not MORE toxic than the primary smoke inhaled by the smoker. Residents should not be forced to endure health issues brought about by inconsiderate neighbors and apathetic landlord</i>

26/37	HRA	Expand access to public health insurance such as Medicaid	<i>In the wake of Covid-19 and with long term effects of the disease still unknown, now more than ever, individuals in need of health care must have a viable option. Decreasing eligibility requirements to receive Medicaid, or even having a payment system to make more people Medicaid eligible would help bridge the gap between those with quality health insurance and those without. Costs of private markets are increasing drastically due to cuts in federal subsidies and fewer people are able to afford private insurance. Having Medicaid as an option would allow access to the preventative care many people need to prevent illnesses.</i>
28/37	DFTA	Enhance home care services	<i>Homebound seniors should not have to live a life of unintentional isolation because they are self-sufficient enough to be able to live on their own. Medicaid ineligible seniors should not be forced to pay exorbitant out of pocket costs for assistance in day to day needs. We encourage increasing home care services for homebound seniors to include not only basic care and assistance, but also for interactive conversation and companionship to prevent the ails of isolation. The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated to all--regardless of age--just how important both social interaction and companionship are.</i>
29/37	DOHMH	Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning	<i>Recent years has seen a spike in sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis , gonorrhea, herpes simplex 2, and chlamydia that can be prevented with condom usage. It is imperative that safe sex campaigns be re-ignited as the fear of dying from HIV/AIDS is not as prevalent today as years past due to recent medical treatment breakthroughs.</i>
30/37	DFTA	Increase transportation services capacity	<i>The elderly have a difficult enough time traveling, and the Covid-19 Pandemic has made it even more difficult and dangerous to travel. Unreliable and presently deemed unsafe public transportation options are at times their only choice. An increase in senior transportation, whether via para transit or taxi vouchers, should be provided--especially for those that are properly afraid of contact with others due to their fragility and age making them a greater risk to perish from Covid-19.</i>

32/37	DOHMH	Create or promote programs for education and awareness on preventing chronic diseases including quitting smoking, nutrition, physical activity, etc.	<i>The on-going Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the vast disparities of food choice and knowledge amongst residents. Additionally, many people have developed terrible habits and addictions such as cigarette smoking and hard drug use. Programs stressing proper nutrition and avoidance of certain health restrictive activities like smoking should be increased.</i>
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37/37	DOHMH	Promote vaccinations and immunizations	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has shown us how important being healthy is. Childhood immunizations are extremely necessary at this time to avoid preventable diseases. The anti-vaccine campaign must be combatted with information to help prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases that can be quelled with vaccination (such as measles and mumps).</i>
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YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

After school programs

The lack of afterschool programs leading the City's youth to have few recreational activities with observation or even instruction has led to an increase in the number of kids engaging in mischievous activities out of boredom. We encourage the creation of myriad recreational options for kids inclusive of STEM programs, sports activities beyond the traditional basketball and football (i.e., tennis, dance, hockey, ice skating, chess, gaming, etc.), non-sports or STEM centered recreational activities such as reading rooms, talk sessions for those with social anxiety, theater/drama, etc. to enjoy after school. Not only will these programs assist them with their social and educational development, but they will also garner interests outside of their normal home experiences. Furthermore, as the impact of almost two years of inconsistent educational delivery comes into better focus, after school programs can be utilized to help those children that suffered most educationally during the Covid Pause to begin to catch up without the burden of feeling like they are drowning in school and school work. The programs can be implemented in such a way that kids are learning without fully grasping that they are in an educational setting, thus keeping their focus on having fun, all the while receiving beneficial education services to help them catch up to state-mandated levels of achievement.

Community District Needs Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Needs for Youth Education

We urge the Dept. of Education to do more to ensure equity for all students. The Covid-19 Pandemic shined light on numerous disparities in our education system ranging from lack of technology in schools, teacher preparation and skill, parental involvement, etc. Sadly, more than 18 months into the pandemic, there does not seem to be much improvement in equitable education. While it would be foolish to expect the DOE to be able to remedy everything a student faces that enables inequity, there are indeed things the department can do to ensure at least that all students have the basics necessary for new learning platforms. This includes working with teachers to discover exactly what they (the teacher) need to better educate students. Sometimes, training is the most necessary thing, but only the teacher inside the classroom with knowledge of their students' needs can tell you how they as teachers could be more successful in their craft. However, that being said, many teachers entering education after college do indeed require training and support.

We encourage the DOE to consider multiple measures and tactics for educational services during the continuation of the Pause and beyond to ensure that as many students as possible, including those that lack basic resources in their home and extended community, are able to achieve academic success. It is no longer a desire for smaller class sizes, and rather now a necessity. It is no longer a desire for greater parent/teacher cooperation, but a necessity. We at CB 8 applaud the strides and efforts of our teachers, and express our gratitude for them.

Needs for Youth and Child Welfare

The ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic has put more children in harm's way as tensions and anxiety levels for pretty much every living being has increased and remains heightened. We do not know the long-term effects of the Pause on children, family dynamics, and mental health, but we advocate for, and encourage additional resources for parents with children.

Capital Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
CS	SCA	Provide a new or expand an existing middle/intermediate school	<i>We thank the DOE and SCA to agree to create a designated District 13 middle school in the B15 building of the Atlantic Yards/Pacific Park Development. We look forward to the school's design and completion, and the great impact it will have on the parents of middle school students in Prospect Heights.</i>	37 Sixth Avenue

Expense Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
33/37	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out	<i>Early intervention is the key to saving the future of our youth. It is well documented that inner-city children have a higher risk for crime, dropping out of school and other educational deficits, gang involvement, drug use, and incarceration. We urge funding for activities that target at-risk youth. Funding for youth development and delinquency and prevention programs is necessary to serve our youth and quell the growing trend toward life-ruining activities.</i>	
34/37	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance preventive services and community based alternatives for youth	<i>With the passage of Raise the Age legislation, many of our youth are now presented with an opportunity to receive services necessary for their continued community presence within their home communities. With ATS options, youth can receive the mental health services they need, training, mentoring, and counseling services to begin the process of properly integrating into the community to build social capital. Intervention programs are key to helping reduce the number of youth straying toward incarceration, and programs geared toward this end are necessary.</i>	

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Police-community relations

There is an extremely huge number of residents that state they do not feel comfortable during interactions with police. This is currently unacceptable, especially as officers are expected to respond to a plethora of calls well outside of standard policing and safety and are needed to remain calm to de-escalate situations. It becomes crucial then, for officers from every rank to have the necessary skills and training to handle all forms of crises. This training is inclusive of social work, mental health assessment, cautiously approaching victims of sexual assault, and of course, racial sensitivity training. Although we are disheartened by the upward trend of violent crimes that began in 2020 and continued to spike in 2021, we continue to applaud the NYPD and the relative success of the NCO program and are grateful that meetings have resumed. However, we acknowledge that there still remains some adjustments to be made for the success of the program. We hope that the NYPD enhances the program by adding additional officers to each section in each precinct and enhance foot patrol as well so that the burden of policing an entire segment of a command does not fall solely on the shoulders of two officers. Furthermore, we are grateful of the new pilot program that allows the precinct councils and select community members and stalwarts to help the NYPD select the new commanding officer of precinct stationhouses. CB8 was afforded the opportunity to participate in the selection of the new CO of the 77th Precinct, and this participation has helped to usher in a new wave of confidence and cooperation between the community and the precinct.

Community District Needs Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Needs for Public Safety

The ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic has led to a marked increase in nuisance crime complaints often overlooked by the Precinct commands. For instance, complaints of late-night stoop gatherings, gatherings in front of parks/playgrounds or vacant lots, gatherings on corners in front of shuttered stores, drug activity, open container and public drunkenness skyrocketed in our district. The locations of many of these complaints remained the same despite different people seeking assistance. Furthermore, the eastern side of Community Board 8 is more heavily populated than the western and central portions because of several NYCHA developments and large apartment buildings in addition to the private single to four family houses. There is still a need for additional patrol in the area bounded by Troy Avenue and Ralph Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Parkway. The blocks of Sterling and Park Places in this area are especially problematic. Consequently, additional police officers are needed for the 77th and 78th Precincts and PSA #2 to effectively monitor the community and NYCHA developments in our District and to put additional officers in these problem areas.

Needs for Emergency Services

No comments

Capital Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
9/11	NYPD	Add NYPD parking facilities	<i>With the construction of Pacific Park around the 78th Precinct, there is a dearth of parking spaces available for officers of the precinct. The 77th Precinct also lacks adequate parking spaces and the result is officers angle parking on the sidewalk in front of private homes, double parking on residential streets, or disobeying alternate side parking rules. We urge the officers of the 78th Precinct to utilize the parking spaces that have been set aside for their use in the Pacific Park project at 535 Carlton Avenue to dispel the negative impact their actions have on the community.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
6/37	NYPD	Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic that continues to limit the recreational outlets and activities has illustrated with certainty that kids will engage in illegal activities not out of malice, but rather out of boredom. The midnight basketball program implemented in the 1990s was effective in reducing youth crime by offering alternative activities and stimulation, thus reducing the need for youth, especially males, to engage in illegal activities out of curiosity. We urge funding for sports programs like this and similar, as well STEM and other derivatives that youth may be interested in engaging with, to promote their social well-being.</i>	

7/37	NYPD	Increase resources for other crime prevention programs	<i>A recent CB8 survey saw respondents overwhelmingly supporting higher visibility of the 77th and 78th Precincts' NCO officers as a way of building trust, tightening community-police bonds, and ultimately reducing crime. Respondents suggested that NCO officers make it a priority to meet with and get to know community stalwarts, business owners, leaders of houses of worship, and even "kindly interact with the individuals that gather on corners, by fire hydrants, and in parks/playgrounds" to reduce the number of quality of life issues developing in the community. Rather than aggressive approach, kind interaction letting individuals and groups know that their actions are becoming a community nuisance can go a long way in bridging growing chasms between residents.</i>
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8/37	NYPD	Hire additional traffic enforcement agents	<i>A recent survey by CB8 received an overwhelming show of resident support for increased enforcement for traffic scofflaws that double park, block bike lanes, and/or park in fire hydrants as well as vehicle owners that do not move their vehicle during alternate side parking. Residents also requested increased traffic enforcement for speeding motorists, e-bike/e-scooter operators and manual bicycle operators that ride on the sidewalk. All complainants requested a more visible presence of traffic enforcement agents to help ticket these violators, increase compliance, and also raise money for city coiffeurs.</i>
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CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency.

Organic waste collection and composting programs

Organic matter in the waste stream produces the most greenhouse gases. Diverting organics from landfills and incinerators is key to the City's 2050 emission and greenhouse gas reduction goals. According to a 2013 DSNY Waste Characterization Study, 31% of waste in the DSNY waste stream is composed of organics suitable for composting. Sadly however, New York City currently diverts less than 1% of organic waste away from landfills. There is a growing need for effective solutions with the largest impacts in the shortest time to redirect organic waste from transfer stations, landfills, and incinerators. With more investment in organics collection and composting programs (notably biodigesters) by the City, more than 370 million pounds of organic waste each year could be collected from local businesses and residents and converted into usable energy and other resources. Universal organics collection saves money, reduces pollution, creates jobs, and makes communities more resilient while even having the residual impact of reducing rodent populations. Each neighborhood must have the capacity to process its own food scraps. Community scale compost sites create sustainable green jobs for local residents and provide valuable compost for our neighborhood soils. Each day, NYC residents generate about 4,000 tons of organics (food scraps) and less than 1% of these are separated. The balances are carried by trucks and trains hundreds of miles "away" from the city where they break down to generate methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Food Scrap Drop Offs (FSDOs) allow residents to divert and instead, compost their food scraps. Community Board 8 has no community scale compost sites and 3 drop-off centers operated at Prospect Heights Farm, 252-256 St. Marks Avenue, Walter L. Shamel Community Garden, 1097 Dean Street and Imani II Garden, 1680 Pacific Street. Our community board lacks robust education and outreach which is critical for the success of municipal composting. Community Board 8 requests support for sustainability programs at each school and organics/compost outreach programs and education resources for local residents. We encourage organics drop-off sites be increased beyond the standard community garden to include local subway stations and sanitation garages. Furthermore, we reiterate our desire for community biodigesters to not only create employment and training opportunities, but also to have other locations for organics drop-offs.

Community District Needs Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency.

Needs for Water, Sewers, and Environmental Protection

Well before flash floods became a reality for residents of New York City, complaints of basement flooding and ponding around certain intersections and uneven roadways had dramatically increased. The Right of Way Bioswale installation projects occurring throughout the city are designed to assist with runoff and flooding for sewers not equipped to handle the quantity of water running through the system. Unfortunately, these bioswales are neither well maintained nor adequate to handle the growing strain on our aging sewer system. We hope that the city allocates funds to implement other methods to employ to assist with runoff and sewer capacity such as providing incentive for homeowners and developers to use rain barrels rather than gutters and create green roofs or green areas in their yard spaces. Many residents prefer to concrete over their front and back yards in an effort to reduce the possibility of any vegetation attracting rodents. What is not understood is that all of this concrete is impermeable and increases the runoff to the sewer. We need to incentivize residents to have as much green space and vegetation on their property as possible to help absorb rain water, while providing a valuable environmental benefit. Unfortunately, this form does not allow us to specifically request funding for the maintenance of bioswales or funding for homeowners to create green roofs or gardens. However, to reiterate: we advocate for incentives for homeowners to create green roofs and as much vegetation on their property as possible to absorb rain water. We also advocate for increasing the size of tree pits to not only allow for root growth, but also to increase the amount of permeable surfaces in the city's concrete jungle.

Needs for Sanitation Services

CB 8 is cognizant of the fact that budget cuts have hampered DSNY operations and will continue to do so for at the least this fiscal year and possibly the next. However, a recent spike in DSNY related complaints such as missed collections, late collections, the sweeper not coming through the block, and overflowing corner baskets disallow us from being able to remain silent on the issue. Garbage feeds rats, and District 8 considers itself a community at the forefront of the rodent debacle. We implore DSNY to improve services and work with the community and property owners on solutions to the mounting trash issue.

Capital Requests Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
3/11	DSNY	Provide new or increase number of sanitation trucks and other equipment	<i>Obtain one or more GOAT curb line cleaning device(s) for Sanitation garage BK8. This will assist in curbside cleaning and help keep the streets cleaner and debris free.</i>	
5/11	DSNY	Provide new or upgrade existing sanitation garages or other sanitation infrastructure	<i>Create capacity and local community scale compost sites and food scrap drop offs. We are requesting the following: 1. That a community composting and education site be created in our community 2. That five new FSDO sites be created, 3. That community composting and FSDO sites are equitably distributed and fully accessible in our community</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
4/37	DSNY	Provide more frequent litter basket collection	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic that has wrecked havoc on the City's budget and has led to an increased amount of litter on streets due to overflowing corner baskets. While the start of the Fiscal Year initially saw a massive reduction in basket collection that has been partially restored, it is still necessary that commercial corridors receive additional corner basket collection. Outdoor activity remains the safest way to socialize and be active, and this increases the number of people on the streets and the amount of litter in baskets. As such, we encourage an increase in corner basket collection, especially among commercial corridors.</i>	
5/37	DEP	Clean catch basins	<i>Climate change has brought much heavier storms, flooding, and even flash flooding to NYC. Recent storms have illustrated the dangers of clogged catch basins. Catch basin cleaning should be increased to eliminate and prevent debris build-up to maximize water drainage from streets during downpours and other rain sessions.</i>	

13/37	DSNY	Increase enforcement of canine waste laws	<i>It is imperative that Pooper Scooper law be enforced and that signs alerting dog owners that it is their responsibility to clean up after their dogs are installed. AS A RESULT, WE ARE ASKING THAT FUNDING TO RE-INSTATE THE SIGNAGE UNIT BE PROVIDED. Furthermore, additional Sanitation Police Officers are also needed to issue summonses to dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs as canine waste has the potential to create health hazards for humans and other dogs. Dog owners must be held responsible for properly caring for their pets.</i>
15/37	DSNY	Increase enforcement of alternate street parking cleaning rules	<i>The last 12 months has seen a dramatic increase in street cleanliness complaints in District 8. Residents that just a few years ago demanded a reduction in alternate side street cleaning, are now demanding that the traditional four day a week cleaning cycle be reinstated to at least give the sweeper an opportunity to clean the streets. We advocate for strengthened enforcement and the return of section supervisors to ensure that vehicles that do not move for the broom are ticketed.</i>
19/37	DSNY	Provide or expand NYC organics collection program	<i>Our community lacks robust education and outreach for organics collection and composting, which is critical for the success of municipal composting. We advocate for sustainability programs at each school and organics/compost outreach programs and educational resources for local residents. Regular curbside organics collection will help reduce garbage hauling costs and can also contribute to reduced greenhouse emissions by keeping organics and food scraps out of landfills.</i>
21/37	DSNY	Provide or expand community composting programs	<i>Our community lacks robust education and outreach for organics collection and composting, which is critical for the success of municipal composting. We advocate for sustainability programs at each school and organics/compost outreach programs and educational resources for local residents.</i>

HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Neighborhood preservation

Community Board 8 members and residents alike often feel as though the community has been inundated with hyper development. The creation of multiple historic districts to preserve the charming housing integrity of our housing stock has not truncated the excessive development. We believe that Developers have targeted the "underbuilt" according to zoning laws historic districts and are seeking to increase their profits by converting the two and three family homes into five or more condominiums by adding extensions and cutting floors. All available lot space is being turned into luxury housing. Larger lots in the M1 zone are being sought for zoning variances outside of the scope and use as designed by the CB 8 MCROWN Committee and submitted to the Dept. of City Planning. Developers are buying residential air rights to increase the size and scope of their development projects at the detriment of residents who do not understand what it means to sell their air rights. Neighborhood preservation is not only about preventing development; it is, instead, about retaining the essence of the community as residents have come to know it. Granted, there will always be change and improvements that serve at that time; however, long term effects of hyper development are too dangerous to consider to allow the massive development to continue in our boundaries. While some believe that the only way to solve the affordability crisis is to create more housing and glut the market, the majority of our members do not agree that this is the way. Reports are indicating a massive exit of residents from the City to other areas with more space; now is the time for us to look into preserving the housing stock we have instead of building more that might not be necessary and that has the potential to turn fallow. There are many alternative ways to increase housing. We encourage the city to look into these alternatives.

Community District Needs Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Needs for Land Use

Land Use is a touchy subject for many in our district. There are many competing ideologies on how land should be used with some individuals believing that open air and open spaces are overrated, thus disregarding concerns of hyper density and large development projects. Some of these individuals further believe that over development is the only way to assure that each New Yorker is housed, using the "trickle down housing" premise that a glutted real estate market will drive prices down. Erroneous reports of falling rents in Brooklyn and New York City as a whole in the aftermath of the still raging pandemic only fueled this baseless argument. On the other side of the land use debate are those that believe in neighborhood preservation, keeping intact the fabric of what makes a neighborhood great.

It is undeniable that District 8, especially the manufacturing portion of the community, is a very desirable location for development. ULURP applications have increased manyfold in the last year, with private development and zoning change projects causing much friction between residents. There is valid concern that District 8 will go the same way as Downtown Brooklyn and become unrecognizable. We still believe, however, that if the Board's MCROWN proposal, ratified in 2015, 2016, and again in 2019 and submitted to the Dept. of City Planning would prove beneficial for our district in terms of not only development, but commercial revitalization as well. Consequently, we urge DCP's adoption of the MCROWN proposal to assist us in designing for the future while preserving our community.

Needs for Housing

We urge the City to consider using derelict, fallow structures for affordable housing opportunities rather than selling community gardens and taking away green space for small scale development projects. Property owners should be held accountable for their property and should know that if they refuse to take care of it, there is the possibility that

they can lose it to address a grave need at truly affordable rates, not inflated rates that are grossly unaffordable. We believe that a proper accounting of vacant NYCHA units should be done, especially considering the dire need for affordable units. A number of years ago, Comptroller Scott Stringer released an audit report stating that over 4,000 NYCHA units sit empty because they have been deemed uninhabitable while awaiting various repairs. These units must be repaired immediately and made available for occupation as soon as possible as they are truly affordable housing for families. It is saddening that we have thousands of families living in temporary shelters when there are over 4,000 vacant NYCHA units that could be used for permanent housing if only they were habitable. Demolition by neglect is inhumane and immoral and should be deterred by any means necessary.

Furthermore, we call upon our local lawmakers to seriously consider the issue of arbitrary market rate rents that developers force on a community. The city needs to take a hard-line stance on the amount of rent that can be charged to prevent displacement of residents and financial strain from rent burdens. Following the federal guidelines for the Area Median Income based on gross income is not feasible in a city with a high standard of living such as New York City. Competition is great for the few so-called affordable units that are available, and the families most in need are ineligible usually because of poor credit. Our elected officials need to step in and institute policy changes that address the glaring and blatant greed of developers that are decimating the housing market in New York City. We believe that the Mayor and City Council have the ability to enact legislation that can help reduce this financial burden by capping rent rates that developers can charge, especially when they enter certain underdeveloped or underprivileged communities. No one should be at risk of displacement, and consequently, our local government needs to do a better job of ensuring that no one faces this danger.

Needs for Economic Development

The Covid-19 Pandemic has shown how untenable and unsustainable high commercial rents can be on valued commercial strips. With more and more hospitality businesses closing permanently and fewer shops and boutiques able to meet overhead costs of a brick and mortar, we are seeing more commercial vacant spaces that in the last 10 years. We understand that private property allows property owners to charge what they desire, but we also encourage EDC to work with business and potential business owners on ways to remain in business. This can include more incubator spaces, more facilities such as Industry Park and the Navy Yard, and also shared spaces for restaurants and bars. It is time to start thinking outside of the box.

Capital Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/11	HPD	Expand loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings	<i>Many small scale landlords desire to maintain and upgrade their apartments but cannot afford to do so without raising rents. Loan programs to help them with rehabilitation projects are necessary to ensure that these landlords and property owners do not have liens levied against their properties because of code enforcement violations. Current resource allocations by the agency have proven to be too scarce at this time. The Covid-19 Pandemic that forced most residents into their units for the majority of every day has illustrated the need for quality housing. Existing conditions in need of remedy must be prioritized to allow residents access to quality housing in their existing spaces.</i>	
2/11	HPD	Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless	<i>Seniors, the disabled, and homeless singles are often left out of housing conversations. As vulnerable populations, they need to be watched carefully and catered to just as much as families. Many seniors and disabled individuals live on fixed incomes of minimal amounts, and are thus unable to afford the current housing market--even the "affordable units." This increases the homeless population and the need for shelters. Existing affordable units need to be preserved and greater incentives for property owners to keep rents low to reduce the growing numbers of rent burdened households. Housing across the city is being created at a fast pace, but not affordable for existing residents, and vacant newly created units leads to increased competition for less expensive rent-stabilized units.</i>	

4/11	EDC	Build or expand affordable work or research lab spaces related to key industries, such as film/tv, advanced manufacturing, life science and healthcare, renewable energy and freight maritime	<i>A Food & Drink Small-scale Manufacturing, Package and Bottling Incubator space is needed in CB8. A number of locations in our manufacturing district (M1) can potentially serve as the venue for small-scale manufacturing in local food and drink that serves Central Brooklyn. The industry in New York City is booming, and additional spaces outside of the glutted Brooklyn Navy Yard, Industry City in Sunset Park, and Red Hook are needed.</i>
8/11	NYCHA	Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments	<i>The Brownsville power grid is insufficient to support its service base. Con Ed has identified that NYCHA developments place most of the strain on the grid. An audit of energy efficiency and environmental performance should be conducted to ensure that NYCHA developments are running efficiently and using as little energy as possible to function effectively. The use of energy efficient bulbs in all units and common areas and the installation of solar panels on NYCHA buildings will aid tremendously in this effort and also reduce the electricity bill owed to Con Edison.</i>

Expense Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/37	DCP	Other zoning and land use requests	<i>We encourage DCP to examine public realm improvements (PRI) for projects within the manufacturing district bounded by Grand and Franklin Avenues between Atlantic Avenue and Bergen Street (blocks 1125, 1126, 1133, 1134, 1141, and 1142), as well as the south side of Atlantic Avenue between Grand and Vanderbilt Avenues (blocks 1122 and 1124). This area was identified by CB 8 for a zoning change allowing for mixed residential and manufacturing use according to Community Board 8's M-CROWN proposal as amended and submitted to the Department of City Planning. We urge the PRI study as soon as possible, so that they can be added into any and all private applications in this area.</i>	

11/37	HPD	Expand programs for housing inspections to correct code violations	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the need for quality, safe, and comfortable housing for all residents. Unfortunately, many residents do not have access to quality housing due to outstanding repair requests. HPD needs to ensure that consequences and repercussions of allowing units to fall into disrepair are great enough and harsh enough to encourage speedy and proper repair to units.</i>
23/37	DCP	Increased community board training, including on core land use process and practices	<i>As more and more development projects come to CB8 via upzonings requiring ULURP applications, members have expressed a desire for better understanding of the ramifications of such zoning changes. Adequate training to consider the "envelope" rather than "just the building put in front of them" that invariably changes over time is necessary so that the Board can accurately review zoning changes.</i>
24/37	NYCHA	Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness	<i>All NYCHA developments should be equipped with containers for garbage storage since maintenance staff currently places garbage curbside multiple times per day. This leads to curbs of NYCHA developments always having garbage outside, which is unsightly and unsanitary, and contributes to the growing vermin (rats and roaches) epidemic in the District. Containerized collection will provide a place to house garbage until pickup day.</i>
31/37	SBS	Provide commercial lease support for business owners	<i>Many of our commercial tenants are suffering from what is now being referred to as "commercial gentrification." Property owners with commercial spaces are often raising rents on commercial properties at lease renewal by astronomical amounts, usually tripling or quadrupling the previous rent rate. The majority of our businesses cannot survive these increases and are forced to close, thus leading to high turnover and vacancy rates. Lease negotiation support for commercial tenants is necessary to assist them in remaining in their spaces and continue the trend of economic growth in CB 8.</i>

Expand programs to support MWBE-owned firms and businesses

The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated just how untenable the current commercial state of the city is. While the city's restaurant and bar scene continues to struggle, retail shops are closing at a very fast pace. CB8 has an abundance of restaurants and bars which would benefit from trained staff that live in the community to serve multiple roles including front house staff, media, marketing, and others. Additionally, non hospitality commercial tenants need assistance to help them weather the pandemic's economic consequences. Resources to assist non hospitality industry spaces selling goods and merchandise to help them move to online platforms are needed to preserve the local market and reduce overhead costs.

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Transportation and Mobility.

Traffic safety and enforcement (cars, scooters, ebikes, etc.)

During the last 12 months, complaints about illegal scooters, e-bikes, unlicensed and unregistered mopeds, electric skateboards, double parked vehicles, vehicles not moving during alternate side cleaning hours, bikers disobeying traffic laws and riding on sidewalks and against traffic, and the like. These complaints are serious to warrant additional enforcement by all agencies with oversight capabilities, especially as the City moves further toward increasing personal vehicle options. Furthermore, complaints against electric mobility device share companies continue to increase as more companies participate in share services. Pedestrians have stated that they feel unsafe on roadways crossing many streets because of unsurety of crossing signals. Many have complained of the Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPI) not indicating how much time they have left to cross when crossing supposedly against traffic while still others complain that they look silly waiting for the light to change when they still have seven seconds or longer and then wind up getting almost hit by vehicles when they are midway through the street. Drivers have complained of the length of time they sit at delayed red lights for the duration of LPIs, which then decrease the number of vehicles that can move through the light during each change and that consequently causes traffic backups on top of almost hitting pedestrians that do not realize how much or how little time they still have to cross the street. We urge the Dept. of Transportation to remediate this problem, and one of the ways the department can start is to install countdown clocks at every LPI intersection and let pedestrians crossing in either direction know exactly how much time is left before the light changes. Please note that CB 8 supports transportation alternative options. However, we must caution that all transportation alternatives remain equitable with the same rules and regulations applying to all. Any operators of a motor vehicle whether with two wheels or with four must be held accountable for their actions, not just car owners. A total disregard for road rules or pedestrian safety by bikers and riders of e-scooters/bikes/mopeds can cause just as many dangerous collisions and as much damage to structures as can a car or truck. We urge increased enforcement of scofflaw road users.

Community District Needs Related to Transportation and Mobility.

Needs for Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure

While we recognize that streets are a shared space between pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and others, we do not all believe that many of the measures being used to divide the streetscape is equitable for all. For instance, while our district currently does not have protected bike lanes, we have received many requests from bikers and vehicle owners not to bring protected bike lanes to our district because there are certain consequences of them that actually increases danger for cyclists. Additionally, while we support pedestrian plazas and other initiatives, we question the layout and implementation of many of them, and whether or not DOT performed the necessary traffic studies to determine the impacts of closing off specific blocks to vehicular traffic for a pedestrian plaza, or eliminating turns and the like, to determine that many of these actions actually hurt traffic flow and increase traffic dangers rather than ameliorating them. We encourage and support the agency working with us to better implement traffic initiatives to maximize benefit and reducing long-term damage.

Needs for Transit Services

Many seniors and people with disabilities rely on bus service and access-A-Ride to travel. It becomes disheartening knowing that some people prefer to remain home rather than attempt to rely upon unreliable bus service in District 8 or are unable to leave due to their ride share company not being able to access their street to get them. We request better service along our bus lines, especially during non peak hours and weekends, as well as a recalculation of Open Street/Restaurants and other traffic calming initiatives that reduce vehicular access. Furthermore, as more

housing is built in District 8 (a recent study found that 1 in every 10 new units of housing created in New York City is in either Prospect Heights or Crown Heights), it is imperative that additional subway and bus service be provided to accommodate the growing users.

Capital Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
10/11	NYCTA	Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure	<i>The Franklin Avenue Shuttle line is in dire need of repainting. Efforts should be made to ensure that the shuttle line is held to the same quality standards as other major transit stations.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
25/37	NYCTA	Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service	<i>Re-instate the B 71 bus line. This line was an integral part of accessing the cultural icons of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Grand Army Plaza Library, and Prospect Park.</i>	
27/37	NYCTA	Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation	<i>A recent survey by CB8 indicates that while some residents are satisfied with subway service, all that ride buses with the District 8 corridor are disappointed with service. With issues ranging from bunching, long wait times, too many express/limited buses and not enough locals, and also the general slowness of buses along their route due to double parked cars and delivery trucks blocking the roadway, it is imperative that additional frequency be added to the B46 and B44 local buses, as well as general additional frequency for the B45, B65, and B69, as these three buses service numerous schools and transfer points.</i>	

PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Park safety

Our parks, cultural institutions, and libraries provide invaluable resources, education and entertainment to our residents. As such, they should be maintained in a manner that will allow them to continue providing pleasure and enjoyment to their users and visitors. It is unfortunate that many of our parks and playgrounds are neglected in terms of trash pickup, maintenance, and even security. The District office receives at least one complaint a week about illegal activity such as gambling, open drinking, and drug use in a park or playground, in addition to multiple complaints of garbage strewn parks and overflowing trash cans on Parks property. We encourage a rotation of PEP officers to patrol our parks and playgrounds just to inform people that their activity is monitored. While this will not entirely stop illegal activity, we believe it will help dispel some of it as people will think twice before engaging in activity that can lead to potential fines or even arrest. It is time that the city restores Parks' budget so that the department can provide adequate services to the community. Additionally, many of the street trees in District 8 are in terrible shape. Many are dying and/or have dead limbs, a good number are in need of pruning and care, and newly planted trees are not properly maintained and consequently die young. In addition to newly planted trees not being properly cared for by contractors, in some circumstances, trees not suitable for the soil or climate are planted and consequently do not thrive, raising residents' ire and dissatisfaction with service delivery.

Community District Needs Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Needs for Parks

The Covid-19 Pandemic has proven how crucial the need for safe and well-maintained parks and playgrounds is. Regular maintenance programs and adequate manpower is crucial. Currently, maintenance staff needs to be increased for all our Parks and Playgrounds, malls along Eastern Parkway, and the St. John's Recreation Center. Additional Playground Associates, Park Enforcement Officers, and other personnel are required to keep all park patrons free from harassment and dangerous elements that lurk in unguarded areas. It has been proven that with personnel in our parks, more people respect the rules of the park/playground such as leashed dogs, and they are cleaner and safer. As more people got pets during the lingering Covid-19 pandemic that continues to make social distancing a necessity, the need for a dog play space/dog run in the district has increased. In fact, a survey in September 2021 indicates that respondents are very much in favor of a dog run in the District, and as such, we urge Parks to create a space for dogs in one or more locations of District 8.

Needs for Cultural Services

We urge the City to continue its financial support for the renovation of our cultural institutions. The Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) is one of New York City's unique educational and cultural treasures. Since its inception in 1899, it has been recognized for educational excellence and innovation and has had strong local and national impact while attendance continues to grow. Funding is required to complete necessary repairs and upgrades, and is also needed to maintain operating hours for the museum and staff levels at a livable wage. Weeksville Heritage Center (WHC) is another cultural jewel in District 8. The newly completed educational center and office space should further enhance the eastern end of the District. WHC is a multi-dimensional museum dedicated to preserving the history of the 19th century African American community of Weeksville, Brooklyn. Using a contemporary lens, the center activates this unique history through the presentation of innovative, vanguard and experimental programs.

Needs for Library Services

In recent years, the three public library systems serving NYC have been threatened annually with drastic cuts. Libraries provide job seekers assistance, adult literacy, English as a Second Language, computer training, tax preparation, US Passport processing, fine arts exhibits, access to the internet, and serve as a repository for historic

material. Taken as a whole, the Brooklyn Public Library system requires its full funding due to its multi-service delivery to youth and adults alike.

Needs for Community Boards

Community Boards are the first advocates for community residents facing issues with other city agencies. It is our charter mandated duty to interface with community residents and city municipalities to ensure service delivery in a timely manner. 311 is not an adequate substitution for the interaction of community boards and community residents. Residents increasingly complain about the difficulty of obtaining useful and accurate information from the 311 system concerning resolution of complaints submitted via the central hotline and other general questions. The net result of the 311 hotline has been stagnation in service delivery and complaint resolution. The Covid-19 Pandemic has re-affirmed the value of community boards and the important work that we do, and we are hopeful that some of the record \$99 billion for the current budget will be funneled our way.

Capital Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
6/11	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lamp posts around Dean Street Playground. Currently, there is a lighting issue in Dean Street playground. The playground does not have an operating system and in the past relied upon stadium lights to illuminate the area. Light posts placed strategically around the park will illuminate the playground without creating a nuisance situation for the park's residential neighbors. The Covid-19 Pandemic has forced residents outdoors for safe recreation and socializing. As there are still capacity limitations, it is imperative that a system be in place to allow residents to stagger their interactions. During short daylight months, additional light is needed for the safety of these small groups.</i>	
7/11	DPR	Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Create a dog park/run in District 8. As more and more people become pet owners, they need a place to take their pets for socializing and activity. We encourage the creation of a dog park/run in one or more locations in District 8 to accommodate this growing need.</i>	
11/11	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lights throughout the pathways and playground at Brower Park. Currently, there are many areas that are completely dark and encourages dangerous activity.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
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9/37	DPR	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)	<i>Existing resources are currently not sufficient to accommodate this request, and it is our understanding that funding constraints and budget cuts have further reduced funds available for this specific service. However, the Covid-19 Pandemic that sent residents rushing to outdoor spaces makes this much more necessary than ever before. We urge the city to allocate additional funds to the Parks Dept. to hire additional Park Enforcement Personnel (PEP officers) to enforce the rules of the park such as no littering, no fire (BBQ), and no off leash dogs during specified hours and many others. Funding must be provided in order to rectify these problems and make our parks and playgrounds safe and enjoyable for all, especially as we remain in a state of social distancing and outdoor gatherings.</i>
16/37	DPR	Improve trash removal and cleanliness	<i>Existing resources to accommodate this request are currently not sufficient. Too often, we get complaints about trash in neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and these complaints only increased during the Covid-19 Pandemic that sent residents rushing to neighborhood parks and playgrounds for recreation and social distancing socialization. We urge the Parks Department to increase efforts to keep our parks and playgrounds litter free. While we understand that the Parks Department is suffering severe budget cuts, we encourage resources to be increased for this endeavor. Of course, this request does not absolve those that utilize our parks and playgrounds from doing their part to keep the parks clean as well, and additional PEP officers should be deployed for ticketing offenders.</i>
22/37	DPR	Forestry services, including street tree maintenance	<i>We are pleased with the number of new trees that have been planted in the district over the last few years. The Parks Department must hold contractors accountable for not following the mandates of their contract as many of the recently planted trees are either dead or dying. Better street tree maintenance is needed to prevent these issues from plaguing a valuable resource. Additionally, older trees need better care such as pruning and larger tree pits to remain healthy and vibrant.</i>

**Support nonprofit
cultural
organizations**

Cultural Affairs needs to assist our cultural institutions with advertisement opportunities across the city. A greater emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of the arts, culture, and diaspora history.

6. OTHER BUDGET REQUESTS

Other Capital Requests

The Community Board did not submit any Budget Requests in this category.

Other Expense Requests

The Community Board did not submit any Budget Requests in this category.

7. SUMMARY OF PRIORITIZED BUDGET REQUESTS

Capital Budget Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/11	HPD	Expand loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings	<i>Many small scale landlords desire to maintain and upgrade their apartments but cannot afford to do so without raising rents. Loan programs to help them with rehabilitation projects are necessary to ensure that these landlords and property owners do not have liens levied against their properties because of code enforcement violations. Current resource allocations by the agency have proven to be too scarce at this time. The Covid-19 Pandemic that forced most residents into their units for the majority of every day has illustrated the need for quality housing. Existing conditions in need of remedy must be prioritized to allow residents access to quality housing in their existing spaces.</i>	
2/11	HPD	Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless	<i>Seniors, the disabled, and homeless singles are often left out of housing conversations. As vulnerable populations, they need to be watched carefully and catered to just as much as families. Many seniors and disabled individuals live on fixed incomes of minimal amounts, and are thus unable to afford the current housing market--even the "affordable units." This increases the homeless population and the need for shelters. Existing affordable units need to be preserved and greater incentives for property owners to keep rents low to reduce the growing numbers of rent burdened households. Housing across the city is being created at a fast pace, but not affordable for existing residents, and vacant newly created units leads to increased competition for less expensive rent-stabilized units.</i>	
3/11	DSNY	Provide new or increase number of sanitation trucks and other equipment	<i>Obtain one or more GOAT curb line cleaning device(s) for Sanitation garage BK8. This will assist in curbside cleaning and help keep the streets cleaner and debris free.</i>	

4/11	EDC	Build or expand affordable work or research lab spaces related to key industries, such as film/tv, advanced manufacturing, life science and healthcare, renewable energy and freight maritime	<i>A Food & Drink Small-scale Manufacturing, Package and Bottling Incubator space is needed in CB8. A number of locations in our manufacturing district (M1) can potentially serve as the venue for small-scale manufacturing in local food and drink that serves Central Brooklyn. The industry in New York City is booming, and additional spaces outside of the glutted Brooklyn Navy Yard, Industry City in Sunset Park, and Red Hook are needed.</i>
5/11	DSNY	Provide new or upgrade existing sanitation garages or other sanitation infrastructure	<i>Create capacity and local community scale compost sites and food scrap drop offs. We are requesting the following: 1. That a community composting and education site be created in our community 2. That five new FSDO sites be created, 3. That community composting and FSDO sites are equitably distributed and fully accessible in our community</i>
6/11	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lamp posts around Dean Street Playground. Currently, there is a lighting issue in Dean Street playground. The playground does not have an operating system and in the past relied upon stadium lights to illuminate the area. Light posts placed strategically around the park will illuminate the playground without creating a nuisance situation for the park's residential neighbors. The Covid-19 Pandemic has forced residents outdoors for safe recreation and socializing. As there are still capacity limitations, it is imperative that a system be in place to allow residents to stagger their interactions. During short daylight months, additional light is needed for the safety of these small groups.</i>
7/11	DPR	Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Create a dog park/run in District 8. As more and more people become pet owners, they need a place to take their pets for socializing and activity. We encourage the creation of a dog park/run in one or more locations in District 8 to accommodate this growing need.</i>

8/11	NYCHA	Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments	<i>The Brownsville power grid is insufficient to support its service base. Con Ed has identified that NYCHA developments place most of the strain on the grid. An audit of energy efficiency and environmental performance should be conducted to ensure that NYCHA developments are running efficiently and using as little energy as possible to function effectively. The use of energy efficient bulbs in all units and common areas and the installation of solar panels on NYCHA buildings will aid tremendously in this effort and also reduce the electricity bill owed to Con Edison.</i>	
9/11	NYPD	Add NYPD parking facilities	<i>With the construction of Pacific Park around the 78th Precinct, there is a dearth of parking spaces available for officers of the precinct. The 77th Precinct also lacks adequate parking spaces and the result is officers angle parking on the sidewalk in front of private homes, double parking on residential streets, or disobeying alternate side parking rules. We urge the officers of the 78th Precinct to utilize the parking spaces that have been set aside for their use in the Pacific Park project at 535 Carlton Avenue to dispel the negative impact their actions have on the community.</i>	
10/11	NYCTA	Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure	<i>The Franklin Avenue Shuttle line is in dire need of repainting. Efforts should be made to ensure that the shuttle line is held to the same quality standards as other major transit stations.</i>	
11/11	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lights throughout the pathways and playground at Brower Park. Currently, there are many areas that are completely dark and encourages dangerous activity.</i>	
CS	SCA	Provide a new or expand an existing middle/intermediate school	<i>We thank the DOE and SCA to agree to create a designated District 13 middle school in the B15 building of the Atlantic Yards/Pacific Park Development. We look forward to the school's design and completion, and the great impact it will have on the parents of middle school students in Prospect Heights.</i>	37 Sixth Avenue

Expense Budget Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/37	DCP	Other zoning and land use requests	<i>We encourage DCP to examine public realm improvements (PRI) for projects within the manufacturing district bounded by Grand and Franklin Avenues between Atlantic Avenue and Bergen Street (blocks 1125, 1126, 1133, 1134, 1141, and 1142), as well as the south side of Atlantic Avenue between Grand and Vanderbilt Avenues (blocks 1122 and 1124). This area was identified by CB 8 for a zoning change allowing for mixed residential and manufacturing use according to Community Board 8's M-CROWN proposal as amended and submitted to the Department of City Planning. We urge the PRI study as soon as possible, so that they can be added into any and all private applications in this area.</i>	
2/37	DOHMH	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations	<i>Community Board 8 residents have expressed dissatisfaction with DOHMH's response to the rodent epidemic in the neighborhood and citywide. The large number of development, renovation, and enlargement projects in the district and citywide have disrupted rodent burrows to the point where rodents are visible during daylight hours. Residents and CB8 staff and members overwhelmingly support DOHMH implementing a policy change mandating that developers bait more than just the perimeter of their projects and instead bait a wider berth, as well as the city enforcing harsh penalties on properties that do not perform abatement to allow the city the opportunity to focus on other health related issues and needs.</i>	

3/37	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance rental assistance programs/vouchers for permanent housing	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the substantial rent burden that residents citywide and especially in District 8 face. We applaud the efforts of City and State officials for allocating funds to help residents pay rental arrears during the Pandemic. Unfortunately, more funds are needed as the crisis is not over, and funds are needed for a wider array of residents. The definition of rent burden should be expanded beyond the current 30% of gross annual salary so that a greater number of residents can qualify for rental assistance vouchers to help them cover the gap between the affordable and unaffordable, to avoid rent burden.</i>
4/37	DSNY	Provide more frequent litter basket collection	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic that has wrecked havoc on the City's budget and has led to an increased amount of litter on streets due to overflowing corner baskets. While the start of the Fiscal Year initially saw a massive reduction in basket collection that has been partially restored, it is still necessary that commercial corridors receive additional corner basket collection. Outdoor activity remains the safest way to socialize and be active, and this increases the number of people on the streets and the amount of litter in baskets. As such, we encourage an increase in corner basket collection, especially among commercial corridors.</i>
5/37	DEP	Clean catch basins	<i>Climate change has brought much heavier storms, flooding, and even flash flooding to NYC. Recent storms have illustrated the dangers of clogged catch basins. Catch basin cleaning should be increased to eliminate and prevent debris build-up to maximize water drainage from streets during downpours and other rain sessions.</i>

6/37	NYPD	Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic that continues to limit the recreational outlets and activities has illustrated with certainty that kids will engage in illegal activities not out of malice, but rather out of boredom. The midnight basketball program implemented in the 1990s was effective in reducing youth crime by offering alternative activities and stimulation, thus reducing the need for youth, especially males, to engage in illegal activities out of curiosity. We urge funding for sports programs like this and similar, as well STEM and other derivatives that youth may be interested in engaging with, to promote their social well-being.</i>
7/37	NYPD	Increase resources for other crime prevention programs	<i>A recent CB8 survey saw respondents overwhelmingly supporting higher visibility of the 77th and 78th Precincts' NCO officers as a way of building trust, tightening community-police bonds, and ultimately reducing crime. Respondents suggested that NCO officers make it a priority to meet with and get to know community stalwarts, business owners, leaders of houses of worship, and even "kindly interact with the individuals that gather on corners, by fire hydrants, and in parks/playgrounds" to reduce the number of quality of life issues developing in the community. Rather than aggressive approach, kind interaction letting individuals and groups know that their actions are becoming a community nuisance can go a long way in bridging growing chasms between residents.</i>
8/37	NYPD	Hire additional traffic enforcement agents	<i>A recent survey by CB8 received an overwhelming show of resident support for increased enforcement for traffic scofflaws that double park, block bike lanes, and/or park in fire hydrants as well as vehicle owners that do not move their vehicle during alternate side parking. Residents also requested increased traffic enforcement for speeding motorists, e-bike/e-scooter operators and manual bicycle operators that ride on the sidewalk. All complainants requested a more visible presence of traffic enforcement agents to help ticket these violators, increase compliance, and also raise money for city coffeers.</i>

9/37	DPR	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)	<i>Existing resources are currently not sufficient to accommodate this request, and it is our understanding that funding constraints and budget cuts have further reduced funds available for this specific service. However, the Covid-19 Pandemic that sent residents rushing to outdoor spaces makes this much more necessary than ever before. We urge the city to allocate additional funds to the Parks Dept. to hire additional Park Enforcement Personnel (PEP officers) to enforce the rules of the park such as no littering, no fire (BBQ), and no off leash dogs during specified hours and many others. Funding must be provided in order to rectify these problems and make our parks and playgrounds safe and enjoyable for all, especially as we remain in a state of social distancing and outdoor gatherings.</i>
10/37	DFTA	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims	<i>Too often, our elders are too ashamed or afraid to speak up for themselves, leading them to suffer continued abuse at the hands of caregivers or even strangers. We encourage DFTA to increase outreach efforts and initiate public service announcements to inform seniors of their options and services should they ever come face to face with elder abuse. We also advocate for increased public awareness programs to help people identify the signs and signals of elder abuse.</i>
11/37	HPD	Expand programs for housing inspections to correct code violations	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the need for quality, safe, and comfortable housing for all residents. Unfortunately, many residents do not have access to quality housing due to outstanding repair requests. HPD needs to ensure that consequences and repercussions of allowing units to fall into disrepair are great enough and harsh enough to encourage speedy and proper repair to units.</i>
12/37	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services	<i>We must keep in mind that our vulnerable population is at risk for abuse from family members and home health aides seeking to take advantage of their frail emotional and physical states. They require considerable attention to maintain their safety and well-being, thus preventing them from being subjected to unnecessary hardship, pain, and mental aggravation in the form of fear.</i>

13/37	DSNY	Increase enforcement of canine waste laws	<i>It is imperative that Pooper Scooper law be enforced and that signs alerting dog owners that it is their responsibility to clean up after their dogs are installed. AS A RESULT, WE ARE ASKING THAT FUNDING TO RE-INSTATE THE SIGNAGE UNIT BE PROVIDED. Furthermore, additional Sanitation Police Officers are also needed to issue summonses to dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs as canine waste has the potential to create health hazards for humans and other dogs. Dog owners must be held responsible for properly caring for their pets.</i>
14/37	DOHMH	Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment	<i>The stigma of admitting to having a mental illness is great, especially in immigrant and communities of color where sentiments such as "mental illness is not a disease you can afford to have," continue to be a plague. This stigma prevents those suffering from symptoms from seeking help. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has certainly illustrated the need for mental health programs and greater understanding of the issues and the ways mental health issues can manifest and be expressed. The often repeated phrase, "mental health issues are not something you can afford to have" can no longer be said as everyone is experiencing some sort of mental strain at this time. Programs are needed to address the stigma because many more are willing to acknowledge their issues courtesy of the pandemic.</i>
15/37	DSNY	Increase enforcement of alternate street parking cleaning rules	<i>The last 12 months has seen a dramatic increase in street cleanliness complaints in District 8. Residents that just a few years ago demanded a reduction in alternate side street cleaning, are now demanding that the traditional four day a week cleaning cycle be reinstated to at least give the sweeper an opportunity to clean the streets. We advocate for strengthened enforcement and the return of section supervisors to ensure that vehicles that do not move for the broom are ticketed.</i>

16/37	DPR	Improve trash removal and cleanliness	<i>Existing resources to accommodate this request are currently not sufficient. Too often, we get complaints about trash in neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and these complaints only increased during the Covid-19 Pandemic that sent residents rushing to neighborhood parks and playgrounds for recreation and social distancing socialization. We urge the Parks Department to increase efforts to keep our parks and playgrounds litter free. While we understand that the Parks Department is suffering severe budget cuts, we encourage resources to be increased for this endeavor. Of course, this request does not absolve those that utilize our parks and playgrounds from doing their part to keep the parks clean as well, and additional PEP officers should be deployed for ticketing offenders.</i>
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17/37	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance educational programs for adults	<i>The state-wide shutdown (Pause) caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic illustrated just how few households and individuals have the tools and resources available to them to properly budget based on their income. Financial education and planning is direly needed in less economically advantaged households. Due to the inevitability of having to stretch their finances even further than they are capable, it is imperative that residents have access to financial planning and budgeting information to learn how to properly plan their monthly spending. This financial literacy is not about just getting a better job to increase income as the Pause has taught us just how important low-paying jobs are, as well as how easily distressed a household can become with just a small reduction in income.</i>
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18/37	HRA	Other domestic violence services requests	<p><i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has brought to the surface many glaring needs for households and families experiencing violence in the home. The state-wide shutdown (Pause) that kept people at home for months created a funnel effect amplifying abuse in homes as no one had an opportunity for escape. It is imperative that funding be provided for preventative services to educate individuals all ages on the signs of abuse, whether physical, emotional, sexual, and psychological, and how to exit a situation that could be potentially life threatening. Furthermore, abusers should have multiple forms of assistance at their disposal to assist them in overcoming their root and core issues that causes their disruptive behavior.</i></p>
19/37	DSNY	Provide or expand NYC organics collection program	<p><i>Our community lacks robust education and outreach for organics collection and composting, which is critical for the success of municipal composting. We advocate for sustainability programs at each school and organics/compost outreach programs and educational resources for local residents. Regular curbside organics collection will help reduce garbage hauling costs and can also contribute to reduced greenhouse emissions by keeping organics and food scraps out of landfills.</i></p>
20/37	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	<p><i>We urge the City to eliminate smoking in multiple dwellings and also increase awareness of the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke as well as consider legislation making all multiple dwelling buildings smoke-free. Residents of multiple dwelling units face an often times forgotten issue: any resident living next to or upstairs from a smoker, is subject to secondhand smoke intrusion, which studies have shown is just as toxic if not MORE toxic than the primary smoke inhaled by the smoker. Residents should not be forced to endure health issues brought about by inconsiderate neighbors and apathetic landlord</i></p>

21/37	DSNY	Provide or expand community composting programs	<i>Our community lacks robust education and outreach for organics collection and composting, which is critical for the success of municipal composting. We advocate for sustainability programs at each school and organics/compost outreach programs and educational resources for local residents.</i>
22/37	DPR	Forestry services, including street tree maintenance	<i>We are pleased with the number of new trees that have been planted in the district over the last few years. The Parks Department must hold contractors accountable for not following the mandates of their contract as many of the recently planted trees are either dead or dying. Better street tree maintenance is needed to prevent these issues from plaguing a valuable resource. Additionally, older trees need better care such as pruning and larger tree pits to remain healthy and vibrant.</i>
23/37	DCP	Increased community board training, including on core land use process and practices	<i>As more and more development projects come to CB8 via upzonings requiring ULURP applications, members have expressed a desire for better understanding of the ramifications of such zoning changes. Adequate training to consider the "envelope" rather than "just the building put in front of them" that invariably changes over time is necessary so that the Board can accurately review zoning changes.</i>
24/37	NYCHA	Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness	<i>All NYCHA developments should be equipped with containers for garbage storage since maintenance staff currently places garbage curbside multiple times per day. This leads to curbs of NYCHA developments always having garbage outside, which is unsightly and unsanitary, and contributes to the growing vermin (rats and roaches) epidemic in the District. Containerized collection will provide a place to house garbage until pickup day.</i>
25/37	NYCTA	Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service	<i>Re-instate the B 71 bus line. This line was an integral part of accessing the cultural icons of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Grand Army Plaza Library, and Prospect Park.</i>

26/37	HRA	Expand access to public health insurance such as Medicaid	<i>In the wake of Covid-19 and with long term effects of the disease still unknown, now more than ever, individuals in need of health care must have a viable option. Decreasing eligibility requirements to receive Medicaid, or even having a payment system to make more people Medicaid eligible would help bridge the gap between those with quality health insurance and those without. Costs of private markets are increasing drastically due to cuts in federal subsidies and fewer people are able to afford private insurance. Having Medicaid as an option would allow access to the preventative care many people need to prevent illnesses.</i>
27/37	NYCTA	Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation	<i>A recent survey by CB8 indicates that while some residents are satisfied with subway service, all that ride buses with the District 8 corridor are disappointed with service. With issues ranging from bunching, long wait times, too many express/limited buses and not enough locals, and also the general slowness of buses along their route due to double parked cars and delivery trucks blocking the roadway, it is imperative that additional frequency be added to the B46 and B44 local buses, as well as general additional frequency for the B45, B65, and B69, as these three buses service numerous schools and transfer points.</i>
28/37	DFTA	Enhance home care services	<i>Homebound seniors should not have to live a life of unintentional isolation because they are self-sufficient enough to be able to live on their own. Medicaid ineligible seniors should not be forced to pay exorbitant out of pocket costs for assistance in day to day needs. We encourage increasing home care services for homebound seniors to include not only basic care and assistance, but also for interactive conversation and companionship to prevent the ails of isolation. The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated to all--regardless of age--just how important both social interaction and companionship are.</i>

29/37	DOHMH	Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning	<i>Recent years has seen a spike in sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis , gonorrhea, herpes simplex 2, and chlamydia that can be prevented with condom usage. It is imperative that safe sex campaigns be re-ignited as the fear of dying from HIV/AIDS is not as prevalent today as years past due to recent medical treatment breakthroughs.</i>
30/37	DFTA	Increase transportation services capacity	<i>The elderly have a difficult enough time traveling, and the Covid-19 Pandemic has made it even more difficult and dangerous to travel. Unreliable and presently deemed unsafe public transportation options are at times their only choice. An increase in senior transportation, whether via para transit or taxi vouchers, should be provided--especially for those that are properly afraid of contact with others due to their fragility and age making them a greater risk to perish from Covid-19.</i>
31/37	SBS	Provide commercial lease support for business owners	<i>Many of our commercial tenants are suffering from what is now being referred to as "commercial gentrification." Property owners with commercial spaces are often raising rents on commercial properties at lease renewal by astronomical amounts, usually tripling or quadrupling the previous rent rate. The majority of our businesses cannot survive these increases and are forced to close, thus leading to high turnover and vacancy rates. Lease negotiation support for commercial tenants is necessary to assist them in remaining in their spaces and continue the trend of economic growth in CB 8.</i>
32/37	DOHMH	Create or promote programs for education and awareness on preventing chronic diseases including quitting smoking, nutrition, physical activity, etc.	<i>The on-going Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the vast disparities of food choice and knowledge amongst residents. Additionally, many people have developed terrible habits and addictions such as cigarette smoking and hard drug use. Programs stressing proper nutrition and avoidance of certain health restrictive activities like smoking should be increased.</i>

33/37	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out	<i>Early intervention is the key to saving the future of our youth. It is well documented that inner-city children have a higher risk for crime, dropping out of school and other educational deficits, gang involvement, drug use, and incarceration. We urge funding for activities that target at-risk youth. Funding for youth development and delinquency and prevention programs is necessary to serve our youth and quell the growing trend toward life-ruining activities.</i>
34/37	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance preventive services and community based alternatives for youth	<i>With the passage of Raise the Age legislation, many of our youth are now presented with an opportunity to receive services necessary for their continued community presence within their home communities. With ATS options, youth can receive the mental health services they need, training, mentoring, and counseling services to begin the process of properly integrating into the community to build social capital. Intervention programs are key to helping reduce the number of youth straying toward incarceration, and programs geared toward this end are necessary.</i>
35/37	EDC	Expand programs to support MWBE-owned firms and businesses	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated just how untenable the current commercial state of the city is. While the city's restaurant and bar scene continues to struggle, retail shops are closing at a very fast pace. CB8 has an abundance of restaurants and bars which would benefit from trained staff that live in the community to serve multiple roles including front house staff, media, marketing, and others. Additionally, non hospitality commercial tenants need assistance to help them weather the pandemic's economic consequences. Resources to assist non hospitality industry spaces selling goods and merchandise to help them move to online platforms are needed to preserve the local market and reduce overhead costs.</i>
36/37	DCLA	Support nonprofit cultural organizations	<i>Cultural Affairs needs to assist our cultural institutions with advertisement opportunities across the city. A greater emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of the arts, culture, and diaspora history.</i>

**Promote
vaccinations and
immunizations**

The Covid-19 Pandemic has shown us how important being healthy is. Childhood immunizations are extremely necessary at this time to avoid preventable diseases. The anti-vaccine campaign must be combatted with information to help prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases that can be quelled with vaccination (such as measles and mumps).