

A map of Brooklyn, New York, showing the boundaries of various community districts. District 8 is highlighted in a bright yellow color, while all other districts are shown in a dark gray color. The map includes major roads, water bodies, and the East River to the east.

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

**Fiscal Year  
2027**

**Brooklyn Community  
District  
8**

*Prepared by the Community Board  
December 2025*

NYC OpenData, New Jersey Office of GIS, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph,  
METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS

# 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) 2027. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board, collected through an online form available to community boards from June to November, 2025.

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](mailto: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 FY24 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 2027. 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

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Chair: Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon  
District Manager: Ms. Michelle George

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## 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
<b>AGE</b>							
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
<b>MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>							
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
<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>							
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
<b>AGE</b>							
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
<b>MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>							
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
<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>							
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
<b>AGE</b>							
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
<b>MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>							
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
<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>							
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

Brooklyn Community Board 8 covers North Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, and Weeksville—bounded by Atlantic Avenue to the north, Flatbush Avenue to the west, Eastern Parkway to the south, and Ralph Avenue to the east. The district's landscape is changing rapidly. Demographic and economic shifts have heightened inequality and tension, revealing gaps in understanding around intersectionality, identity, and belonging, and creating tensions around these same areas.

As New York City continues its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, long-standing disparities in housing, healthcare, access to fresh food, open spaces, and transportation have become more difficult to ignore. Development in the former M-CROWN manufacturing zone—now the Atlantic Avenue Mixed-Use Plan's (AAMUP) resultant corridor—has fueled not only gentrification, displacement, and rising rents from Atlantic Avenue to Bergen Street, but has also fortified expanding tensions between neighbors and businesses. These pressures are eroding community capital across the district and deepening divides between longtime residents and new arrivals while increasing the affordability crisis facing all working class New Yorkers.

For more than a decade, residents and Community Board 8 members have worked to ensure that development in the District serves the people who built this community by consistently calling for MIH Option 3, which allows for deeper affordability (about \$1,600 for a two-bedroom apartment) and could actually keep working-class families in their homes. Unfortunately, the City Council's approval of AAMUP with Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) Option 1 undermines that goal by permitting developers to build units well beyond local reach, thus reinforcing the very displacement the plan was meant to prevent. The resultant frustration reflects a growing disconnect between residents and city leaders, as the majority believe that the 3:1 ratio of market rate units to "affordable units" does not even dent the affordability crisis facing renters at this time even while developers claim economic infeasibility preventing creation of units at truly affordable rates. Many feel that an overemphasis on luxury housing ignores those most affected by the affordability crisis, enhancing rising rents, increasing landlord harassment in the declining rent stabilized housing stock, creating an increase in homelessness—even as high-end apartments sit empty.

Sadly, publicly accessible data confirms the strain espoused above. About 47% of CB8 households spend more than 30% of their income on rent, and 331 evictions were recorded between July 2024 and October 2025. Across Brooklyn, more than half of renters are cost-burdened, and roughly one-quarter pay at least half their income toward rent. Yet policy debates still fixate on "building more" rather than "making homes affordable." Thousands of warehoused units remain unaddressed while city programs suffer from staff shortages, voucher discrimination, and administrative inefficiency.

Furthermore, the affordability crisis intersects with other vulnerabilities. Two of CB8's most vulnerable groups—the elderly and youth—remain critically underserved. Seniors lack accessible programs, transportation, and health support, while youth lack more inclusive and diverse opportunities that meet emotional, educational, and social needs. Expanding and tailoring services for these groups is vital to preventing isolation, stress, and long-term instability. Additionally, mental health challenges continue to weigh heavily on district residents. The lingering effects of the pandemic continue to heighten anxiety and depression, particularly within immigrant and BIPOC communities where stigma and limited access discourage open dialogue and treatment. Integrating mental health education with mindfulness practices—such as meditation, gardening, and holistic healing—could provide meaningful community-based support when combined with accessible preventive care. Broader social supports such as green spaces, stable housing, reliable employment, and a sense of belonging are equally vital for fostering mental well-being.

CB8 stands at a turning point. Development is accelerating, but deeply affordable housing is lagging; the socio-economic wealth of the District is increasing for some while for others it remains stagnant and the population over-policed; private schools are proliferating and increasing

segregation between residents. All of this ultimately fosters an underlying resentment between residents. Without deliberate, equity-focused planning, the district risks losing the very people and culture that once defined it. Consequently, the Board continues to advocate for a strategy that:

- Prioritizes deeply affordable housing
- Protects long-term residents and neighborhoods
- Preserves local jobs and cultural heritage

CB8's growth story should not be one of erasure; with intentional investment, responsive and responsible government, and community partnership, CB8 can remain both a model of progress and a home for those who built it.

## 4. TOP THREE PRESSING ISSUES OVERALL

### Brooklyn Community Board 8

The three most pressing issues facing this Community Board are:

#### **Affordable Housing**

New York City's affordable housing crisis is shaped not only by the total number of housing units available, but also by the mismatch between perceived housing supply and the incomes of those seeking said housing. While market-rate housing has expanded in many neighborhoods across the city and especially in Community Board 8, the real shortage lies in units affordable to low- and moderate-income households. Estimates suggest that hundreds of thousands of renters across the city face severe affordability pressures, while the city's policies often rely on faulty aggregate housing data that obscure these important distinctions. This is exacerbated in CB8, as we've experienced rapid gentrification and displacement over the last 20 years per census data and NYC Dept. of City Planning neighborhood trends.

A key driver of policy is the Housing and Vacancy Survey (HVS), which measures "net rental vacancy rates"—ultimately what is used by our elected officials from the Mayor and individual City Councilmembers to the Borough President and trickling down to even appointed community board members—to then influence land use trends and development practices and the understanding of the need for these trends. However, this data is limited: it only counts units that are vacant and available for rent on any given day, ignoring tens of thousands of "warehoused" or off-market units that landlords hold off the market and keep empty for financial or strategic reasons (oftentimes to continue making it seem as though the available housing stock is much lower than in reality to demand). By failing to account for this shadow inventory, the HVS understates actual market shortages, and this severely distorts decision-making. In 2023, the NYC Comptroller's office estimated approximately 230,000 units were vacant but not listed, with rough indicators and proxies suggesting Brooklyn could account for roughly 69,000 of these off-market units. Furthermore, about 8,000 of these units were thought to be rent-stabilized, eliminating 8,000 potential truly affordable and much needed units from being accessed by those in need.

Furthermore, reliance on the HVS as the principal measure of housing scarcity has significant consequences. Firstly, because the survey is conducted only every three years and excludes large segments of the empty housing stock, policymakers from the Mayor's office, City Council's Land Use Division, and officials from the Dept. of City Planning may overestimate true market scarcity. Secondly, decisions based solely on these misleading and inaccurate vacancy figures can cause a misallocation of resources, encourage the rapid production of market-rate units rather than affordable units that are truly needed, and fail to account for local variations across neighborhoods. Thirdly, this reliance also risks political manipulation, erosion of trust in local officials, and inefficiencies in funding and planning programs—which was sadly evidenced by members of CB8 feeling intentionally misled by Councilmembers Hudson and Osse during the May 2025 vote on the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan reaffirmation of support. Operation under a flawed ideology of "trickle-down housing," assumes that building more market-rate units will naturally reduce rents and solve the affordability crisis by creating more units for those that could conceivably pay more and reduce burden on more affordable units. Finally, reliance on this data exacerbates the affordable housing crisis by prioritizing simply building rather than focusing on building based on need. In practice, this approach has repeatedly and evidentially failed: it accelerates gentrification, displaces long-term residents, and leaves the city's most vulnerable households struggling. Policies based on the HVS, coupled with this laissez-faire faith in market forces, systematically favor developers' interests over the public good, turning housing strategy into a mechanism that amplifies inequality rather than mitigates it.

In CB8 (North Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Weeksville) the housing landscape is marked by intense pressure: rising rents and gentrification, a shortage of deeply affordable housing, preservation (landmarking and neighborhood characteristics maintenance) and rezoning battles, and ongoing quality-of-housing issues for renters. The Community Board actively pushes for plans that deliver deep affordability, protect jobs and the local economy (especially industrial/maker space), and defend the interests of long-time residents—sometimes in opposition of our partners at the Council level. Concurrently however, rapid development and changing demographics raise serious questions about displacement, housing equity, and community character, making our advocacy difficult.

Until our officials and city as a whole use other metrics to tackle understanding the housing crisis, we will remain at this impasse with residents suffering and facing displacement. Ultimately, those that choose to stay in the city will be placed closer to an avoidable plateau: homelessness.

## **Senior services**

New York City's housing affordability crisis has placed enormous strain on older adults—about 22% of CB8's population—undermining both their financial stability and mental health. According to New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, nearly 43 percent of households headed by individuals aged 75 or older are burdened by housing costs, with 62% spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent or housing expenses. Seniors living on fixed incomes—consisting of Social Security or limited pensions with little to no opportunity for growth—struggle to absorb rent increases and rising living costs. This in turn often forces trade-offs between essentials such as food, medication, and health care. Over the past two decades, the city's population of adults aged 65 and over has grown by more than 50 percent, intensifying competition for an already scarce supply of affordable housing. The consequences are visible: the number of older adults in NYC's shelter system more than doubled between 2014 and 2022, from roughly 700 to nearly 1,700 individuals, reflecting a rapid rise in senior homelessness. Sadly, this number does not reflect the seniors that are unhoused and living in their vehicles or bouncing from friend to friend.

The psychological toll of housing insecurity among older adults is profound. The fear of eviction or displacement contributes to chronic stress, anxiety, and depression, which also leads to an increase in other physical ailments and withdrawal. Forced relocation has the potential to sever seniors from social networks and familiar neighborhoods. Sadly, all of these factors are closely linked to overall well-being and illustrate a decline in quality of life for our seniors. As one city survey found, more than 80 percent of New Yorkers believe the city is in a mental-health crisis, with affordability and housing instability cited as leading contributors. Stable, affordable housing is thus not merely an economic issue; it is a determinant of physical and mental health. Policymakers should view prioritization of senior housing as a public-health intervention, integrating rent relief, supportive housing, and mental-health outreach to safeguard older residents' well-being. And for those that are property owners, it is crucial that they receive tax relief and exemptions to avoid the unnecessary stress of losing their home to rising government costs.

Furthermore, as the city digitizes more services (from health care appointments to benefits applications), older New Yorkers risk being left behind by the rapid shift toward technology-dependent systems. The Department for the Aging's State of Older New Yorkers 2025 report found that roughly 12 percent of seniors lack home internet access, while more than 30 percent either do not own or do not use a computer or tablet. Cost, lack of digital literacy, and fear of scams are among the primary barriers, but there are others including pride that deters many from seeking the help they need. Nearly half of senior households lack broadband access altogether, underscoring a widening digital divide that exacerbates isolation and limits access to essential services. It is negligent on the city's part to force digitization on a population without providing the tools and resources to help them navigate the evolving conditions.

However, we would be remiss to ignore acknowledging that some city leaders have begun trying to address this gap through initiatives, and we are fortunate enough to be represented by Councilmember Crystal Hudson, who has successfully managed to pass eight of 10 pieces of legislation in her "Age in Place" package to assist seniors in maintaining a standard of living conducive to the hard work they've completed so far in making this city what is it today. She specifically states on her website's Age in Place tracker, "We've failed time and again, but it's not too late to turn the tide and make New York City a place where every older adult can age in place with dignity." Furthermore, programs such as Big Apple Connect, which provides free internet to NYCHA residents, and the Neighborhood Tech Help program, which offers in-person digital literacy assistance in affordable housing and community centers assist in bridging the divide. Additionally, a 2025 Digital Equity Roadmap aims to expand training and device distribution citywide.

Unfortunately, this is not enough or fast enough in terms of roll out or understanding, and sustained investment is needed to ensure these programs reach the most marginalized seniors like those with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or extremely low incomes as is the case for many of District 8's senior population. Bridging the digital divide requires a multi-pronged approach: subsidizing affordable internet and devices, embedding quality (with a stress on "quality") digital training into senior centers and libraries, and ensuring city agencies maintain hybrid (online and in-person) options for essential services. Digital inclusion is not only about technology—it is about preserving seniors' autonomy, access to care, social connection in an increasingly virtual city, and also a requirement for accessibility. We must all do our part to protect our older adult residents.

## **Crime and Public Safety**

Brooklyn Community Board 8 lies at the heart of one of New York City's most visible transformations. Once sustained by tight-knit community networks, neighborhood churches, and small businesses that quietly safeguarded public life, we now reflect both the vitality and the strain of rapid change. While NYPD released crime statistics illustrate a sharp decline in crime over the past two decades, the perception of safety remains uneven. The paradox of feeling less safe even as neighborhoods grow wealthier stems from the loss of community capital: the trust, shared norms, and informal cooperation that make a place feel predictable and secure.

In CB8, gentrification has disrupted positive long-standing relationships between residents. Many longtime residents, often priced out and displaced, take with them layers of historical memory and institutional knowledge as well as informal social control. Meanwhile, newer residents—though invested financially—tend to avoid or be disharmonious with community and community building practices. These demographic turnovers weaken the everyday systems that once kept order: neighbors who looked out for one another's children, store owners who worked with their neighbors to mediate disputes, and block associations that doubled as safety networks. Instead, we are developing an environment where residents actively seek to shut black-owned night life establishments down, remove all semblances of cultural integrity, and to, in the words of some of the few remaining minority residents in Prospect Heights, "privatize and gate [Prospect Heights] to ensure that only white interests are served."

Local institutions have felt this strain as well. Community centers, churches, and cultural hubs that once bridged economic and racial divides have seen attendance drop or doors close. New businesses and amenities often serve a narrower, more transient population. As shared spaces disappear, so do the casual encounters that build mutual recognition and trust—the everyday gestures that quietly reinforce social stability.

One of the results of this fraying of community capital is how crime is perceived amongst residents. In CB8, where many residents no longer know each other well, even minor signs of disorder—graffiti, loud arguments, loitering—begins to appear more threatening than it is in reality. Without visible, trusted informal authority, the neighborhood can seem more volatile than it actually is.

Community board meetings and neighborhood surveys often capture this dissonance: residents report anxiety about safety and "quality of life" issues even in the face of consistent NYPD data showing that major crimes remain low or are continuing a steady decline.

This is reflected in a recent Community Board 8 survey where 29% of respondents identified crime and public safety as one of their top three concerns. Though slight increases in grand larceny, auto theft, and robberies are acknowledged by department officials even as they maintain violent crimes are the lowest they have ever been, mere data alone cannot explain the depth of this unease. Sociologically speaking, simply expanding the NYPD's already substantial budget or assigning additional duties to undertrained officers will not address the underlying fear or the broader sense of insecurity that residents express. Meaningful safety extends beyond law enforcement; it requires investing in the social and physical infrastructure that makes neighborhoods feel stable, connected, and cared for. Efforts to reduce fear must therefore reach beyond policing to include consistent funding for social services, parks and playgrounds, after- and out of school time programs for youth, literacy programs for both youth and adults, financial education, affordable housing, and initiatives addressing food and housing insecurity. An increase in these services is the main impetus behind calls to "defund the police," not intending to reduce the number of officers within the NYPD or even eliminating crime prevention services, but to increase offerings of those services proven to be lacking in the city but present in areas outside of the city that are just as populous but where these services and programs are present. These are the quiet foundations of community well-being—the programs that build trust, predictability, and opportunity. Yet too often, such initiatives are sidelined with responses such as "not recommended for funding" or marked as "agency supports but lacks funds to accommodate."

Ultimately, fraying tensions between residents in CB8 reveals that safety is as much a social product as a statistical one. Wealth, policing, and redevelopment on their own cannot restore the quiet confidence that comes from familiarity and reciprocity. It is crucial to understand that what truly protects a neighborhood is not enforcement or surveillance, but the everyday acts of recognition and care that remind people they belong, and that fosters a sense of community by ensuring every individual that someone, nearby, is looking out for them.

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# 5. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

## HEALTHCARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Brooklyn Community Board 8

#### Most Important Issue Related to Healthcare and Human Services

##### **Other - Write In (Required)**

Human services is a broad field that encompasses a wide range of professional and volunteer support for individuals, families, and communities. Key aspects of human services include direct assistance, such as counseling, support groups, and helping individuals access resources; community-based support, including organizing local programs and services that meet neighborhood needs such as food and shelter assistance and job placement; administrative and management functions, such as overseeing public assistance programs and coordinating service delivery; and advocacy for vulnerable populations, including seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income families. These services address basic needs such as housing, food, and healthcare, as well as providing assistance with issues like mental health, substance abuse, unemployment, and education. Professionals in this field often work in community-based settings that are most accessible to those in need, such as houses of worship, schools, block and tenant associations, and community nonprofits. Those in this field provide crucial services and resources for many different groups, including the elderly, immigrants, individuals recently released from prison, people with limited English proficiency, individuals with disabilities, and more. The fact that more than 20% of respondents to a recent CB8 survey identified health and human services as the most important issue in the district underscores the growing need for such services in our community.

In previous years, Community Board 8 benefited from an abundance of human service agencies led by nonprofit organizations such as the Crown Heights Mediation Center, Neighborhood Housing Services, IMPACCT Brooklyn, Ralph-Lincoln Service Center, Crown Heights Service Center, Crown Heights Youth Collective, Save Our Streets, Settlement Housing Fund, and many others. Unfortunately, many of these organizations have either disbanded entirely, rebranded, lost funding with the transition of their founders, or shifted their focus due to financial pressures and struggles to stay afloat with many of these issues exacerbated by delays in city contract payments. This has resulted in service interruptions for residents who rely on these programs as well as lapses in service delivery. Sadly, some providers have been forced to cease operations entirely because they are unable to pay staff or maintain operations despite increasing community needs.

The population of CB8 includes many of the vulnerable groups listed above. Consequently, and especially as the city's affordability crisis continues, it is imperative that nonprofits providing services in areas such as low-income and affordable housing, immigrant legal services, veterans' affairs, free housing legal assistance, education, mental health and wellness, substance abuse treatment, and healthy food access are properly funded and paid on time so that services can continue. We have reached an unprecedented period of instability at the federal level, making it increasingly difficult to rely on federal support. As a result, city agencies and city-funded contracts have become essential lifelines for organizations that provide these critical services to our residents.

#### Community District Needs Related to Healthcare and Human Services

##### **Needs for Health Care and Facilities**

We encourage the development of "one-stop-shop" clinics and healthcare centers that provide many, if not all, of the essential services offered by hospitals. Facilities like these, which can handle outpatient minor surgeries, health screenings, dialysis, asthma treatments, MRIs and CT scans, walk-in services, and more, are valuable assets to the community—particularly as our District currently lacks a hospital. While we are not suggesting that these smaller centers should replace hospital care, they offer a convenient, accessible, and often more affordable option for residents who might otherwise forgo medical attention, especially those without health insurance. Additionally, we hope these centers will expand to offer more comprehensive mental health and substance abuse treatment and preventative services.

### **Needs for Older NYs**

Our senior population, a growing yet often overlooked community, deserves dedicated services and support as a recognition of their contributions and lifetime of hard work. We must ensure that seniors have the fundamental means to live comfortably above the federal poverty line. Unfortunately, many seniors in New York City struggle with housing insecurity due to skyrocketing rents, rising healthcare costs, increasing property tax and rental burdens, and inflation driving up food prices. As advocates for elderly care in District 8, we urge a course of action to improve quality of life for seniors.

City-operated and neighborhood-based agencies should expand services focused on residential opportunities, home care, and healthcare, especially for seniors who do not qualify for Medicaid or programs like SCRIE, DRIE, and senior property tax exemptions. These underserved seniors should not have to compete with working residents for "affordable" housing that threatens their financial security. Let's prioritize solutions that respect and support our senior citizens' well-being.

### **Needs for Homeless**

Affordable housing and measures to curb excessive rent increases by landlords can play a crucial role in reducing homelessness. True affordability should be based on tenants' net income—the amount they actually have available for rent—rather than gross income. Additionally, addressing homelessness requires meeting individuals' social and mental health needs by fostering healthy, safe communities. By building strong social networks and community support systems, we can help residents long before government intervention becomes necessary.

### **Needs for Low Income NYs**

Living in poverty or being low-income can significantly impact a person's quality of life and family dynamics. According to the family stress model, poverty often creates stress within families, which can lead to interparental conflict that affects family relationships and may contribute to negative outcomes for children. Economic pressures can also strain parent-child relationships, as children may feel resentment over the lack of parental presence or resources for small luxuries. Furthermore, poverty-related conditions like overcrowded housing and housing instability can have a destabilizing effect on all family members.

Poverty also makes it challenging for parents to maintain a healthy work-life balance, limiting the time they can spend caring for their children and participating in school, extracurricular, and community activities. Low-income parents are more likely to work long hours in unstable jobs that lack basic supports like parental leave and sick pay. They often have less flexibility and fewer options, such as reliance on public transportation and lack of access to work-from-home arrangements, which can add further strain on family life.

Research has shown that increases in family income can positively impact children's educational achievements and improve their emotional and physical well-being. However, poverty also affects adults' health, leading to higher rates of chronic illnesses, mental health issues, and mortality. Low-income communities face additional challenges, as financial limitations and inadequate access to healthcare make it difficult to address health needs, compounding stress and complicating parenting.

Supportive programs in social services should include addiction treatment and counseling to help individuals understand that their perceived setbacks are not worth compromising their health, well-being, and relationships. Collaborations between agencies, such as HRA/DSS and DOHMH, are essential in creating these programs.

Finally, it is vital to provide adequate care for our elderly, ensuring they are safeguarded from abuse and predatory behaviors. Programs are needed to educate seniors, their neighbors, and friends on recognizing the signs of elder abuse and on scam prevention.

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## HEALTHCARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

*Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.*

### CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

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

### EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Title</b>
DFTA	1 / 8	Increase transportation services capacity
DFTA	2 / 8	Financial programs for senior homeowners
DFTA	3 / 8	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims
DFTA	4 / 8	Continue Crime Prevention/Victim Assistance Program for Seniors
DFTA	5 / 8	Enhance home care services
DFTA	6 / 8	Create programs for Senior Vitality and Active Engagement programs
DFTA	7 / 8	Financial education programs
DFTA	8 / 8	AI training for older adults
DHS	1 / 1	Expand street outreach
DOHMH	1 / 4	Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment
DOHMH	2 / 4	Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning
DOHMH	3 / 4	Other programs to address public health issues requests
DOHMH	4 / 4	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations
HRA	1 / 1	Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services

## Brooklyn Community Board 8

### Most Important Issue Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

#### **After school programs**

Expanding and sustaining Out of Schooldtime (OST) programs in District 8 is an investment in public safety, family stability, and long-term community well-being, helping ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive beyond the school day. Unfortunately, Central Brooklyn, particularly North Crown Heights, faces significant gaps in after-school and out-of-school-time (OST) programming. These gaps are especially pronounced for predominantly Black families in District 8, where parents rely on OST programs for safety, enrichment, and academic support. While our community has long benefited from strong local organizations such as Friends of Crown Heights, the Crown Heights Youth Collective, and other nonprofits, many providers struggle with chronic underfunding, delayed city payments, and short-term contracts, making it difficult to sustain or expand services.

Since October 2024, there has been an alarming rise in teen violence, with tens of teenagers killed in shootings across the city. In District 8 alone, several youth homicides have been recorded, with the youngest victim just 13 years old. This disturbing trend underscores the urgent need for constructive, supervised outlets that engage young people's interests, foster their educational growth, and support their development as productive members of society and not just as future laborers.

Demand for affordable, high-quality programs far exceeds supply. Many schools and community centers reach capacity within weeks of enrollment opening, and in some parts of Central Brooklyn, the majority of children in need of after-school care do not have access to it. Families with access often face a difficult choice to either accept programs that are culturally generic or go without. Barriers related to cost, limited availability, and uneven program quality further exacerbate inequities compared to more economically advantaged neighborhoods. For older youth, the gap is even greater, with few structured opportunities between school and evening hours, leaving them without access to mentoring, job training, or academic enrichment.

The lack of supervised, engaging after-school programming has left many young people with limited recreational options, leading some to act out from boredom. Community Board 8 advocates for a wide range of free or highly affordable activities, including both traditional sports such as basketball, baseball, and football, as well as STEM programs, tennis, dance, hockey, ice skating, chess, gaming, and martial arts. Equally important are non-sport and non-STEM options such as reading rooms, art spaces, theater, drama, choir, and band, which foster creativity, self-expression, and a sense of community. These programs not only support social and educational development but also expose youth to interests beyond their immediate home environment.

Community conditions further emphasize the need for culturally responsive and trauma-informed programming. Many children and families in the District face intersecting challenges including housing instability, food insecurity, and exposure to community violence that are often neither shared nor acknowledged by their non-BIPOC peers. OST programs in District 8 do more than provide supervision; they serve as safe havens that foster learning, social-emotional development, and a sense of belonging.

To address these needs, Community Board 8 urges the city to expand OST access in high-demand Central Brooklyn neighborhoods, stabilize and streamline funding for community providers, and ensure that programs reflect the cultural strengths and lived experiences of the communities they serve. Investments in youth employment, mentorship, and enrichment programs for older students

are also essential. Strengthening partnerships between schools and community-based organizations will help ensure consistent, high-quality programming that aligns with both academic goals and community priorities.

We encourage the expansion of programs that incorporate culturally responsive curricula, Black leadership representation, and trauma-informed and emotionally regulatory practices, alongside technical assistance for providers to integrate social-emotional learning and restorative justice principles. This is imperative as these programs build the foundation for academic success, workforce readiness, and stronger neighborhood connections, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive beyond the school day. Additionally, funding should support job-readiness initiatives, mentorship, arts, and STEM programs for teens, while fostering partnerships with local businesses, trade unions, and colleges to create pathways from OST participation to employment and higher education. Co-locating after-school programs within school facilities and streamlining data-sharing agreements can further align academic and enrichment goals.

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## Community District Needs Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

### **Needs for Youth Education**

We urge the Department of Education to prioritize educational equity for all students. The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath have highlighted numerous disparities in our education system, including a lack of technology in schools, varied levels of teacher preparation, and inconsistent parental involvement. Sadly, more than a year after the pandemic, progress toward equitable education remains limited. While it may be unrealistic to expect the DOE to eliminate every systemic bias students face, the department can and should ensure that all students have access to essential tools for new learning platforms.

One crucial step is for the DOE to engage with teachers directly to understand their specific needs in educating students effectively. Standardized training often overlooks the diverse experiences of classroom teachers, who know their students' unique needs and understand the support necessary to help them learn. This is not to undervalue the importance of broad-based professional training, especially in response to the NYS Board of Regents' new educational protocols and approaches. We are deeply grateful for teachers' dedication and their efforts beyond the classroom, and we applaud their resilience.

To better support teachers and students, we encourage the DOE to incorporate intersectional strategies that reflect students' varied experiences and backgrounds. These approaches can help ensure that all students—including those from underserved communities who lack basic resources—receive quality educational support. Solutions must go beyond smaller class sizes and improved parent-teacher cooperation (though these are critical) to include diverse learning methods that accommodate different learning styles. Training must be adaptable and rooted in the needs of teachers, who are essential to crafting an inclusive learning environment.

Additionally, the decision to eliminate snow days for New York City students has underscored the urgent need for technological enhancements. The DOE should guarantee that students have access to reliable devices and broadband at home to participate in remote learning effectively. Equipping classrooms with audiovisual tools for videoconferencing would also allow sick students to attend school virtually without exposing classmates to illness. Investing in technology not only makes learning more accessible and engaging but also prevents underprivileged students from being left behind.

### **Needs for Youth and Child Welfare**

The COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing transition to an endemic phase have increased risks for children, as heightened anxiety and tension continue to impact families. While the long-term effects of this period on children, family dynamics, and mental health remain uncertain, we strongly advocate for additional resources and support for parents and their children.

## YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

*Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.*

### CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Title</b>
SCA	1 / 3	PS138 School Library
SCA	2 / 3	PS 138 Cooling System
SCA	3 / 3	PS 138 Hydroponics Lab

### EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Title</b>
ACS	1 / 2	Provide, expand, or enhance housing assistance for youth that are leaving foster care
ACS	2 / 2	Provide, expand, or enhance funding to support higher education and/or workforce development opportunities for youth who are leaving foster care
DYCD	1 / 5	Provide, expand, or enhance adolescent literacy programs and services
DYCD	2 / 5	Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out
DYCD	3 / 5	Gaming, Coding, AI
DYCD	4 / 5	Coding, Gaming, AI
DYCD	5 / 5	Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs

## Brooklyn Community Board 8

### Most Important Issue Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

#### **Fire safety**

In the last 18 months, there have been several deadly fires in Community Board 8 including one that lost three generations of lives in one family. Several fires that caused entire buildings to be vacated and declared uninhabitable have also occurred. District 8 residents cannot afford to relive the era of New York City where fires and being burned out were tools and measures employed by unscrupulous landlords. Nor can they afford to not know simple things to keep themselves and their neighbors safe. If the FDNY has noticed an uptick in fires related to unsafe batteries on electronic bikes or faulty electronics and appliances imported from foreign countries, it is imperative that residents be properly trained and notified of how dangerous their purchasing choices can be.

The fire at 242 Albany Avenue that caused three generations from one family to perish was found to have been caused by a lithium ion battery. These batteries are common and popular for electronic devices and e-bikes and other personal modes of transportation. People across the city need to know precisely how dangerous unsupported battery charging can be and also informed on precisely what to look for in terms of electrical classifications to make the right choice for themselves and their families. Education is paramount to help constituents understand what UL ratings mean and why they are important, and also ensuring that rechargeable batteries are certified safe.

FDNY's education and community outreach programs play a critical role in protecting New Yorkers by preventing fires, promoting life-saving skills, and engaging youth in positive development. Programs like Fire Safety Education, Get Alarmed NYC, the Fire Zone, youth career initiatives, and Community Risk Reduction directly target vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, and residents in high-risk neighborhoods. Unfortunately, despite their effectiveness, these programs face limitations in reach and impact due to funding constraints. We advocate for additional resources and budgetary allocations that would allow FDNY to:

1. Expand access to interactive, hands-on learning at schools, community centers, and the Fire Zone.
2. Distribute more free smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors and provide installation assistance to at-risk households.
3. Increase youth engagement through career exploration and life-skills programs in underserved communities.
4. Strengthen multilingual outreach and tailored interventions for communities with higher fire and safety risks.

Investing in FDNY education programs is not just a matter of preparedness. Rather, it is a cost-effective strategy to reduce fire deaths and injuries, equip residents with critical life-saving skills like CPR training, and foster safer, more resilient communities. As we pour more money into the NYPD, we must stop looking beyond our other public safety experts and instead, recognize that FDNY serves just as valuable a purpose in keeping this city safe as police officers.

### Community District Needs Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

#### **Needs for Public Safety**

In District 8, many residents perceive that crime has risen dramatically over the past two years, particularly violent crime and shootings. Although NYPD statistics indicate that this perception does not reflect the actual data, it is essential to acknowledge that residents' perceptions are shaped by their lived experiences—something statistics alone cannot capture. Many residents now report heightened fear and a deep sense of insecurity in carrying out everyday tasks. In a recent survey, 70% of respondents stated that they feel unsafe, distrust their neighbors, and experience a low overall sense of safety, even outside the district. An unsafe community quickly becomes an unhealthy one, as seen in rising preventable health conditions, increased anxiety, declining student performance, and growing tensions between neighbors.

While it is unrealistic to expect police officers or surveillance cameras on every street corner, we continue to advocate for a holistic, community-based approach to public safety—one that invests in educational and recreational programs for residents of all ages. Fully supported social service programs are equally essential, providing mental health care and social supports that foster community stability and integration. Anti-recidivism and anti-gang initiatives can help reduce incarceration rates, while expanded access to rental assistance and housing vouchers can ease the financial pressures of high rents and rising living costs amid stagnant wages. Non-policing strategies—such as community engagement initiatives, food and housing security programs, accessible healthcare, well-maintained open spaces, and other local resources—should remain central to our vision of public safety.

Concerns also remain regarding NYPD training, particularly in interactions with vulnerable populations and individuals experiencing mental health crises. Recent high-profile incidents have highlighted the dangers of using force when social service intervention would be more appropriate. It is critical that the NYPD expand training in diversity, equity, and inclusion to ensure officers respond to situations with sensitivity and care rather than force. Additionally, funding for Co-Response Teams (CRT) which pair officers with mental health professionals, must be increased immediately. Strengthening this type of training and collaboration is vital to equipping officers to de-escalate situations safely and to ensuring that social workers and service providers can respond in ways that build community trust and promote lasting safety.

Over the past year, the district has also seen a sharp increase in nuisance crime complaints that often go overlooked by local precincts. These include dangerous and illegal use of scooters, e-bikes, and mopeds on sidewalks; late-night stoop gatherings; loitering near parks, playgrounds, or vacant lots; groups congregating in front of closed storefronts; open drug activity; and incidents of lewd or indecent behavior. As these issues continue surging across the district, now is the time to begin addressing them not solely through enforcement or increased policing, but through community investment. By funding programs and support(ive) systems that make residents feel safe, we can reduce the need for heightened police presence and build a stronger, more connected community.

### **Needs for Emergency Services**

In District 8, rising rates of preventable medical illnesses and an increasing number of residents suffering from respiratory conditions have created a heightened demand for emergency medical services (EMS). Unfortunately, this need is closely linked to the percentage of residents lacking health insurance or those with limited coverage, as well as individuals facing substance abuse issues, all of which exacerbate their medical conditions. Additionally, residents struggling with addiction often rely on emergency medical intervention to prevent overdose deaths, further underscoring the need for enhanced emergency services.

To address these challenges, we advocate for the expansion of public health vending machines that can help reduce medical emergencies by providing access to essential health supplies and resources.

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

*Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.*

### CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Title</b>
FDNY	1 / 1	Upgrade Women's Bathrooms and Facilities
NYPD	1 / 1	Make 77th Precinct ADA compliant

### EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Title</b>
FDNY	1 / 1	Expand funding for fire prevention and life safety initiatives
NYPD	1 / 2	Hire additional crossing guards
NYPD	2 / 2	Hire additional traffic enforcement agents

## Brooklyn Community Board 8

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

#### **Preparedness for extreme weather events (incl. coastal flooding, heat waves, cold snaps, heavy wind and rain)**

Extreme weather events have been striking New York city with a ferocity never before seen. From overtaxed sewer system, building codes that do not factor in wind damage, plans based on 100 year events that were outdated well prior to implementation...New York city is in dire straights in terms of preparedness for extreme weather events. Long before flash floods became a pressing concern for New York City residents, complaints about basement flooding and ponding at certain intersections and uneven roadways had significantly increased in District 8. Concurrently, larger, taller developments have created a "wind tunnel" effect across the city and especially in CB8 that exacerbates the howling, damaging winds on windy days. Several earthquakes have been felt by residents leading to increased complaints of "swaying buildings"; hurricanes and tropical storms are landing with increased frequency; extreme heat cycles impact the summer months while outdated and unimproved electrical infrastructure proves incapable of handling usage loads; city agencies such as the Parks Department are improperly funded to expeditiously remedy situations to assist with heat dissipation when it comes to something as simple and cost efficient as keeping playground sprinklers operating; city cooling centers suffer from electrical shortages and outages as city offices (inclusive of the CB8 district office and our local Brower Park Library branch) are unable to properly function because of electrical shortages and outages as well as lowered power to properly run equipment; random gas explosions across the city persist, and so many more harmful instances that are deleteriously impacting the quality of life for residents. It is crucial that we work on extreme weather preparedness to lessen the dangerous impact of climate change on this once great city.

We acknowledge many of the efforts of our sister service agencies. The Dept. of Environmental Protection continues working diligently to help build the city's infrastructure against extreme weather conditions. Green Infrastructure installation projects such as bioswales (raingardens), infiltration basins, distribution of rain barrels, and increased use of porous permeable paving are ongoing throughout the city. These projects are intended to alleviate runoff and flooding for sewers that are not equipped to handle the volume of water and sewage flowing through the system. Unfortunately, sometimes these efforts do not work as intended (bioswales are often poorly maintained and insufficient, ), are simply insufficient to remedy the problem, or just not implemented widely enough to make significant impact to cope with the mounting pressure on our aging sewer infrastructure and expanding use of large multiple dwelling units well prior to investment in our aging infrastructure.

We urge the city to allocate funds for the improvement of these methods and explore additional strategies to manage runoff and reduce water waste. These strategies could include but not be limited to, providing incentives for homeowners and developers to implement living roofs, vertical gardens, and rain barrels to collect water rather than relying solely on gutters, which allow it to drain off flat surfaces and land in city sewers to further tax the system.

A concerning trend in District 8 is the growing preference among residents to pave over their front and backyards to prevent vegetation that might attract rodents. However, this approach creates an impermeable surface that increases runoff into the sewer system while failing to deter rodent activity, as it provides hidden areas for them to thrive. Incentives for creating green spaces offer numerous environmental benefits beyond merely reducing runoff and easing the burden on our infrastructure. While this form does not allow us to request specific funding for the maintenance of bioswales or for homeowners to create green roofs or gardens, we want to emphasize our

advocacy for such incentives. Furthermore, we express our advocacy for programs that encourage homeowners to cultivate as much vegetation on their properties as possible as well as to increase permeability via permeable pavement if they choose to not have vegetation to help absorb rainwater and prevent water entering the sewer. Additionally, we advocate for expanding the size of tree pits to facilitate root growth and increase the amount of permeable surfaces in our city's concrete landscape.

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

### **Needs for Water, Sewers, and Environmental Protection**

Long before flash floods became a pressing concern for New York City residents, complaints about basement flooding and ponding at certain intersections and uneven roadways had significantly increased in District 8. The Right of Way Bioswale (raingarden) installation projects ongoing throughout the city are intended to alleviate runoff and flooding for sewers that are not equipped to handle the volume of water and sewage flowing through the system. Unfortunately, these bioswales are often poorly maintained and insufficient to cope with the mounting pressure on our aging sewer infrastructure.

While there has been a rise in the installation of infiltration basins and stormwater greenstreets across the city, these greenstreets frequently suffer from the same lack of care and maintenance as raingardens. We urge the city to allocate funds for the improvement of these methods and explore additional strategies to manage runoff and reduce water waste. These strategies could include providing incentives for homeowners and developers to implement living roofs, vertical gardens, and rain barrels to collect water rather than relying solely on gutters, which allow it to drain off flat surfaces.

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### **Needs for Sanitation Services**

Educating residents about organic waste and the significance of composting in combating climate change is essential. By fostering this understanding, we can enhance participation in the city's curbside organics collection program and assist in meeting its sustainability targets. It is equally crucial for each neighborhood to have the capacity to process its own food scraps. Community-scale compost sites not only create sustainable green jobs for local residents but also provide valuable compost to enrich our neighborhood soils. Food Scrap Drop-Offs (FSDOs) enable residents to divert food scraps from landfills and compost them effectively. Therefore, we advocate for funding to reinstate FSDOs that were eliminated by the agency due to budget shortfalls.

We also request support for sustainability programs in every school, along with outreach initiatives focused on organics and composting for local residents and business owners. Additionally, we advocate for expanding organics drop-off sites beyond standard community gardens to include local subway stations and sanitation garages.

Furthermore, we emphasize our support for community biodigesters, which can create employment and training opportunities while providing additional locations for organics drop-offs. This initiative will not only generate well-paying jobs but also promote renewable energy solutions.

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## CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

*Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.*

### CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

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

### EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Title</b>
DEP	1 / 2	Clean catch basins
DSNY	1 / 4	Increase enforcement of alternate street parking cleaning rules
DSNY	2 / 4	Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers
DSNY	3 / 4	Provide or expand community composting programs
DSNY	4 / 4	Increase enforcement of canine waste laws

## Brooklyn Community Board 8

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

#### **Affordable housing creation**

In a recent CB8 survey, 41% of respondents identified housing, particularly affordable housing, as the community's top concern. Rising rents, a severe shortage of affordable units, and a strained rent-stabilized housing market are placing tremendous pressure on both household stability and residents' overall well-being.

Many of CB8's longtime Black and Brown residents feel they are being priced out of the neighborhoods they love, where they grew up, and hoped to raise their children. Unfortunately, the data confirms these fears. While working-class Black and Brown residents are being displaced at alarming rates, the number of affluent white and Asian residents continues to climb sharply. Over the past decade, the white population in the district has nearly tripled, while the Asian population has nearly doubled.

Speculative development practices only worsen these conditions, underscoring the urgent need for policies and services that protect existing housing stock from further displacement. Citywide zoning and land use initiatives such as the recently enacted City of Yes for Housing Opportunity (CHO), the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan (AAMUP), and the recently approved Charter Revision ballot measures, claim to expand housing options but in practice present significant challenges for affordability. CHO and the ballot initiatives largely diminish community oversight, giving developers greater freedom to build denser, bulkier structures in exchange for minimal affordable housing. While these plans set ambitious targets to increase housing and even affordable housing by 20% over the next decade, their underlying flaws risk worsening the crisis more so than solving it. Despite optimistic projections from some elected officials, these policies may ultimately produce a denser city with fewer truly affordable homes, less light and air, reduced open space, and diminished diversity, consequently eroding the very character that made the district so desirable.

In District 8, the effects of inequitable development are clearly visible. In the more "affordable" eastern portion of the district, homes deemed "underbuilt" by zoning standards are being vertically expanded or completely gutted to create multi-unit micro-apartments. Most new buildings in the district now consist of at least 60% studio and one-bedroom units, intensifying competition for family-sized apartments and further displacing long-term residents with larger family sizes or seeking to start a family.

While building new affordable housing remains critical, the city must also do far more to preserve and protect the affordable units that already exist. Current strategies, especially those focused on rent-stabilized housing, fall short because they simply emphasize unit creation rather than true affordability. To be clear, for every one unit constructed at a so-called affordable rate, three are built at market rate. Many officials overlook this fact, as well as the high vacancy rates in new developments where rents remain out of reach for most residents and developers refuse to lower prices in expressing their desire to simply build more housing.

Unless City leadership shifts its focus from simply increasing the number of units to ensuring their affordability and accessibility, this crisis will continue to deepen. We urge officials to view the affordability crisis in a holistic manner rather than the single-minded approach of making it easier to develop the city.

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

## **Needs for Land Use**

Land use remains a sensitive issue in District 8, with competing visions shaping the debate. Some advocate for extensive development, viewing open spaces as less critical and embracing "trickle-down housing," believing a saturated real estate market will eventually drive down prices. On the other side, preservationists prioritize maintaining the neighborhood's character and open spaces, valuing what makes District 8 distinct. As development interest rises—particularly in the district's manufacturing zones—the area has seen a surge in ULURP applications and zoning change projects, sparking friction over the district's future. Many fear it could follow the path of Downtown Brooklyn, losing its unique identity to unchecked growth.

The NYC Department of City Planning's (DCP) recent choice to replace CB8's MCROWN proposal with the Atlantic Avenue Mixed-Use Plan has added to this tension. Many residents feel the new plan falls short of the housing and job opportunities MCROWN could have delivered. Additionally, the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity (CHO) proposal, which eases zoning restrictions, will likely reduce community oversight on larger projects, allowing for more as-of-right developments. This approach risks making the district denser, pricier, and potentially unrecognizable.

## **Needs for Housing**

We urge the City to prioritize utilizing derelict structures for affordable housing rather than sacrificing community gardens and green spaces for development. Property owners should be held accountable for neglected buildings, with the potential risk of forfeiture if they fail to maintain their property, allowing these structures to address affordable housing needs. A thorough audit of vacant NYCHA units, especially those awaiting repair, is essential; thousands of units could serve as stable, affordable housing if made habitable. It is distressing to see families in temporary shelters while NYCHA units remain empty.

We also urge lawmakers to tackle the issue of arbitrary, unaffordable market rents. The current standard, based on federal Area Median Income guidelines, does not reflect the realities of New York City's cost of living. Developers should not be permitted to impose inflated rents, especially in vulnerable neighborhoods. Policy changes to cap rents in underprivileged areas would help prevent displacement and ease financial strain. While the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity intends to expand housing, it falls short of addressing affordability and displacement risks. Local government must ensure residents are protected and empowered to stay in their communities, free from the threat of displacement.

## **Needs for Economic Development**

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the challenges of sustaining high commercial rents, especially for businesses on key commercial strips. With permanent closures of many hospitality establishments and an increasing number of vacant storefronts, it's evident that the traditional overhead of brick-and-mortar spaces is no longer feasible for many small businesses. While property owners have the right to set their rates, we encourage the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to collaborate with business owners on sustainable solutions. This could include expanding incubator spaces, establishing more facilities like Industry City and the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and introducing shared spaces for restaurants and bars to lower costs. A creative, flexible approach is essential to support small businesses and keep our commercial corridors vibrant and thriving.

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## HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

*Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.*

### CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Title</b>
HPD	1 / 2	Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings
HPD	2 / 2	Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless
NYCHA	1 / 1	Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments

### EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Title</b>
HPD	1 / 2	Employ more people in Eviction Prevention and Assistance unit
HPD	2 / 2	Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations
SBS	1 / 1	Educational Campaigns for Commercial Waste Zones

## Brooklyn Community Board 8

### Most Important Issue Related to Transportation and Mobility

#### **Bus service and quality (frequency, access, crowding, etc.)**

District 8 has seen changes in street use that have unintentionally hindered the effectiveness of public transit, particularly bus services. NYC Transit's recent proposals to redesign the Brooklyn bus map that included the elimination of certain lines, reducing services, and shortening routes, continues to lead to significant concerns, especially among seniors and mobility-limited residents who rely on these buses as the agency fails to come forth with a revised plan. For instance, during Vanderbilt Avenue Open Streets, the B69 bus route is diverted every weekend from April to October, leaving residents to walk a considerable distance to the temporary bus stops. This occurs as well on Franklin Avenue with the B49 bus. Weekend services on these lines are already sparse, and buses frequently face delays due to route disruptions, inconveniencing residents who depend on them for reliable transportation.

With city efforts urging residents to move away from personal vehicles, decreasing accessibility to public transit is counterproductive. We advocate for increased transit options to ensure reliability, equitable improvements in subway and bus infrastructure to maintain 24-hour service, and more amenities at bus stops, including shelters and seating. Seniors have voiced the need for expanded local services, particularly on the B44 and B46, and shorter wait times for buses such as the B45, B65, B49, and B69.

Furthermore, to genuinely reduce traffic and make public transit a viable alternative, the city must prioritize safe, accessible, and frequent public transportation options for all residents. 50% of survey respondents have stated they do not feel safe on public transportation, and increased violence on buses and subways do not assuage their fears. It is not a matter of having a police officer on every train or bus, but rather a matter of ensuring the holistic health of the city by ensuring necessary social service programs and treatment options are available.

### Community District Needs Related to Transportation and Mobility

#### **Needs for Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure**

We acknowledge that streets are shared spaces among pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and others. In light of this, we advocate for more equitable street designs that prioritize safety and accessibility for all users. We encourage collaboration with the agency to better implement traffic initiatives that maximize benefits and mitigate any long-term negative impacts on our community. Thoughtful design and community input can ensure that streets serve the diverse needs of District 8 while promoting safer, more sustainable travel options.

#### **Needs for Transit Services**

Many seniors, people with disabilities, and those with mobility issues depend on reliable bus service and Access-A-Ride as alternatives to subway stations with stairs. It is disheartening that some residents feel isolated at home due to inconsistent bus service or accessibility challenges created by changes to street access. We request enhanced bus service along District 8 lines, especially during non-peak hours and weekends, and recommend a thorough evaluation of the Open Streets initiative on Vanderbilt Avenue, which significantly impacts the B69 route, as well as other traffic calming measures that reduce street access.

As District 8 continues to grow—especially with recent studies highlighting that 1 in every 10 new housing units in New York City is in Prospect Heights or Crown Heights—it is crucial to increase both subway and bus services to meet our expanding community's transportation needs. Proactive

planning is essential to ensure accessible, dependable transit for all residents and to support equitable mobility across the district.

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## TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

*Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.*

### CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Title</b>
DOT	1 / 2	Improve mobility options, including bike share and car share
DOT	2 / 2	Reconstruct St. Johns Place
NYCTA	1 / 2	Other transit infrastructure requests
NYCTA	2 / 2	Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure
DOT	CS	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming

### EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Title</b>
DOT	1 / 3	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming
DOT	2 / 3	Pacific Street Bike Lane
DOT	3 / 3	Central Brooklyn Street Mobility and Parks Access
NYCTA	1 / 2	Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation
NYCTA	2 / 2	Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service

## Brooklyn Community Board 8

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

#### **Street tree and forestry services (including street tree maintenance)**

Recent extreme heat events have underscored the urgent need for more trees and better maintenance of the ones we already have. We strongly urge proper funding for the Department of Parks and Recreation so that the agency can support regular maintenance programs and adequate staffing. These resources are essential to ensure that our parks, playgrounds, and public spaces remain safe, welcoming, and resilient. In particular, there is an immediate need to increase maintenance staff for all neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and malls along Eastern Parkway, as well as for the St. John's Recreation Center, and citywide street tree pruning services.

New York City's street tree system is an invaluable public asset. Trees improve public health, enhance safety, reduce heat, and help manage stormwater. Unfortunately, decades of chronic underfunding have left this system vulnerable. The shift from preventive to reactive care has resulted in weaker, less healthy trees that are more likely to cause damage and less able to provide environmental benefits.

During the Bloomberg administration, the Million Trees Initiative saw the planting of more trees than ever in the city and in District 8. These trees are now mature and quite large, and most are in desperate need of pruning. Many of the blocks in our community are tree lined, which, during summer months of full canopies, causes these blocks to be extremely dark at night. Pruning of trees is necessary to ensure safety on these streets, create better visibility in conjunction with street lighting, and ensuring the health of the block.

In previous years, the City pruned street trees on a 7-year cycle, including inspections to maintain tree health and public safety. However, due to budget cuts and long-term underinvestment, pruning has become complaint-based with trees being serviced only after a 311 report or emergency call. By that time, it is often too late to preserve the tree or prevent property damage. As a result, pruning cycles now stretch well beyond seven years in many neighborhoods including CB8, leading to overgrown and hazardous trees, large numbers of dead trees awaiting removal, and increased anxiety for property owners.

Because the Parks Department's Forestry Division is severely underfunded and understaffed, it is forced to operate reactively, responding to emergencies rather than performing regular maintenance. This approach is not only unsustainable but also more costly as any audit would show. Fallen limbs, uprooted trees, damaged sidewalks, and emergency removals cost far more than preventive pruning and inspection. Unpruned trees are also more likely to lose limbs or topple during storms or high winds, and those not regularly maintained are more vulnerable to environmental stressors such as the "orange sky" air quality crisis from the Canadian wildfires in June 2023. With extreme weather events becoming more frequent, the lack of proactive maintenance has become a public safety issue: fallen branches can block streets, damage vehicles and property, or even cause injury or death. If left unchecked, tree roots can also lift sidewalks, creating accessibility and safety hazards.

Despite the magnitude of its responsibilities, the Department of Parks and Recreation receives less than 1% of the total city budget, which is roughly equivalent to the NYPD's overtime allocation alone. This inequitable funding structure reflects a narrow understanding of what constitutes public safety. Adequate investment in the Parks Department is not merely about beautification; instead, it is essential to keeping our city safe, cool, and livable.

### **Needs for Parks**

Several parks and playgrounds across District 8 are in dire need of repairs and upgrades, yet persistent underfunding of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has stalled necessary maintenance efforts. Each year, DPR capital requests are met with the refrain, "DPR supports this request but lacks the funds to accommodate," redirecting constituents to appeal to local elected officials for funding. This approach is insufficient. Parks and playgrounds serve as vital, free social spaces for all residents and are essential for supporting the fragile urban and environmental ecosystem.

Adequate funding for DPR is critical to maintain parks and recreational spaces without relying on private funding sources that may ultimately divide communities. For instance, while the Skatepark Project intends to develop skateparks in Brooklyn and the Bronx, the plan to pave over portions of Mt. Prospect Park has generated substantial opposition, with many residents attributing the proposal to private lobbying efforts rather than community demand. This reliance on outside funding risks prioritizing projects that may not reflect community needs. The stark contrast between DPR's entire budget and the NYPD's overtime allocation is unacceptable; it underscores an imbalance that disregards the foundational role of parks in public health, community cohesion, and ecological stability.

A healthy community is one with accessible, well-maintained parks, clean and safe recreational facilities, and diverse free programming to meet the needs of all residents. It is essential that DPR receive sustainable funding to ensure these spaces thrive as community resources, not as selective programs seemingly shaped by private interest solely because DPR is improperly funded.

### **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, having a strong local and national impact while attendance continues to grow. Funding is required to complete necessary repairs and upgrades, as well as to maintain operating hours for the museum and ensure staff levels are compensated at a livable wage.

Similarly, the Weeksville Heritage Center (WHC) is another cultural jewel in District 8. This 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. Supporting these institutions is vital not only for preserving our cultural heritage but also for enriching the educational and cultural landscape of our community.

### **Needs for Library Services**

In recent years, the three public library systems serving New York City have faced annual threats of drastic cuts. Libraries offer a wide range of essential services, including job seeker assistance, adult literacy programs, English as a Second Language classes, computer training, tax preparation, and U.S. passport processing. They also host fine arts exhibits and provide access to the internet, serving as repositories for historic materials. While access to books remains a vital component of their services, libraries do so much more for the community.

To ensure that these invaluable resources continue to serve residents of all ages, backgrounds, and needs, it is imperative that the library system receives adequate funding. Investing in our libraries is investing in the educational, cultural, and social well-being of our community, helping to bridge gaps and provide essential support to those who need it most.

### **Needs for Community Boards**

Community Boards serve as the primary advocates for residents facing issues with various city agencies, yet they have not seen a budget increase in decades. It is our charter-mandated duty to interface with community residents and city municipalities to ensure timely and effective service delivery. Unfortunately, the 311 system has proven to be an inadequate substitute for the direct interaction that community boards provide.

Residents frequently express frustration with the 311 hotline, citing difficulties in obtaining useful and accurate information regarding the resolution of complaints and other inquiries. As a result, there has been stagnation in service delivery and complaint resolution, undermining the effectiveness of city services.

We urge the Mayor and City Council to recognize the essential role of community boards in facilitating communication and service delivery within our neighborhoods. Increasing the budget for community boards is critical to enabling us to fulfill our charter-mandated duties and better serve the needs of our communities. By investing in community boards, the city can enhance its responsiveness and accountability to residents.

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## PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

*Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.*

### CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
DCAS	1 / 1	Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment
DCLA	1 / 1	VRF system for Weeksville
DPR	1 / 22	New equipment for maintenance
DPR	2 / 22	Dean Street Playground Lights
DPR	3 / 22	Fix sprinkler at Brower Park Playground
DPR	4 / 22	Woods Playground renovation
DPR	5 / 22	St. John's Recreation Center
DPR	6 / 22	Woods Playground Comfort Station
DPR	7 / 22	Brower Park Pathways
DPR	8 / 22	Reconstruct Dean Street Playground
DPR	9 / 22	Underhill Playground
DPR	10 / 22	Brower Park Lights (Basketball)
DPR	11 / 22	Lincoln Terrace Park Restroom (Playground)
DPR	12 / 22	Underhill Playground comfort station
DPR	13 / 22	Brower Park Restroom
DPR	14 / 22	Brower Park Futsal
DPR	15 / 22	Woods Playground Basketball Courts
DPR	16 / 22	Lincoln Terrace Park Ballfield
DPR	17 / 22	St. John's Park Multi-Sport Field
DPR	18 / 22	St. John's Park ballfield
DPR	19 / 22	Mount Prospect Park Playground
DPR	20 / 22	Mount Prospect Park Fences and Curbs
DPR	21 / 22	Croquet Field in Prospect Park
DPR	22 / 22	Dog run/park
DCLA	CS	Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility
DPR	CS	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)
DPR	CS	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

### EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
BPL	1 / 2	Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs

BPL	2 / 2	Greater funding for book and digital library purchases
DCLA	1 / 1	Support nonprofit cultural organizations
DPR	1 / 4	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)
DPR	2 / 4	Forestry services, including street tree maintenance
DPR	3 / 4	Improve trash removal and cleanliness
DPR	4 / 4	Other park maintenance and safety requests
OMB	1 / 1	Increase budgets for Community Boards

## 6. OTHER BUDGET REQUESTS

*Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.*

### CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

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

### EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Title</b>
DEP	2 / 2	Funding for lead testing and remediation

## 7. SUMMARY OF PRIORITIZED BUDGET REQUESTS

### CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

#### Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS)

**1 of 1 Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment** **DCAS**  
Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment

Acquire land for Community Board 8 offices and general meeting location. A space of our own that is large enough to accommodate our membership and the public during general meetings and public hearings is crucial to our success in generating public interest in civic engagement. The old Rescue 2 firehouse building at 1472 Bergen Street is an ideal location as the building is city-owned as is the land around it. Due to its use as a firehouse, it is equipped with office space for staff and the ground floor level could be repurposed into meeting space for the Board. This would allow us the opportunity to hold hybrid meetings to meet the demand of our membership.

#### Department of Transportation (DOT)

**1 of 2 Improve mobility options, including bike share and car share** **DOT**  
Improve mobility options, including bike share and car share

We urge DOT to require all people who rent Citi Bikes to wear helmets. We also request that helmet sharing lockers be installed all Citi Bike stations to encourage riders to use them. Helmets are proven to protect bikers. Additionally, New York City law requires e-bike riders to use a helmet and Lyft is increasing the availability of pedel-assist ebikes. Let's keep riders safe by ensuring that they are able to rent helmets at the same time they rent a bike.

**2 of 2 Reconstruct St. Johns Place** **DOT**  
Reconstruct streets

Location: St. Johns Place - Nostrand Avenue & New York Avenue  
St. John's Place between New York and Nostrand Avenues is the only portion of the roadway that still have the old trolley tracks. This causes the street to break down much more rapidly after resurfacing. Additionally, this stretch is experiencing a growing number of cave-ins and sink holes, underscoring the dire need for full reconstruction and trench restoration.

**CS Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming** **DOT**  
Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming

Implement DOT's Safety Improvements and Service Road Signalization Plan for the north side of Eastern Parkway. This plan was presented to and approved by the Board in 2017 and has yet to be implemented despite continued dangers and loss of life and property along the Parkway.

#### New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA)

**1 of 2 Other transit infrastructure requests** **NYCTA**  
Other transit infrastructure requests

We are disappointed to hear that the agency does not support shelters and seating in every bus stop per last year's response to the request that every bus stop in District 8 be equipped with shelters and seats as well as countdown timers to alert riders when the next bus is coming. Riders should have the comfort of protection from the elements when waiting for the bus as well as real time knowledge of when the next bus is coming.

**2 of 2 Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure** **NYCTA**  
Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure

Each year we are advised to contact our Intergovernmental representative at NYC Transit for implementation of this request. We have contacted the agency multiple times over the years and continue to get the same response. We need the agency to understand that this is of utmost importance as the Franklin Avenue Shuttle line is in dire need of repainting. The four stops along the line, specifically the Park Place station in District 8, is in terrible repair with peeling paint and graffiti both interior of the station and exterior. We are requesting that this request be expedited as the shuttle is an integral connection for Brooklyn residents, and must be prioritized and maintained as other stations in the network.

## Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA)

### 1 of 1 **VRF system for Weeksville**

**DCLA**

Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility

Purchase and install a variable refrigerant flow (VRF) HVAC system in the Hunterfly Row Houses within the Weeksville Heritage Center. This will ensure the long-term preservation of the Hunterfly Houses and thus advancing their sustainability goals in the face of climate changes.

### **CS Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility**

**DCLA**

Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility

Provide funding for maintenance, restoration, and beautification of homes on the Weeksville Heritage Center's yards. Several of the homes are falling into disrepair including collapsing eaves, gutters, and roof shingles.

## Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)

### 1 of 2 **Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings**

**HPD**

Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings

Many small scale landlords desire to maintain and upgrade their apartments and charge affordable rates but cannot make necessary repairs and upgrades 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. Furthermore, they allow landlords to keep units below market rate, and this must be a priority for the City. Current resource allocations by the agency have proven to be too scarce at this time, and we encourage additional resources.

### 2 of 2 **Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless**

**HPD**

Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless

Seniors, the disabled, and homeless singles not in need of supportive services are often left out of housing conversations and forced to compete for scant quantities of units. Existing affordable units need to be preserved and there is a greater need for 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 the majority of the city's residents, and vacant newly created units leads to unnecessary increased competition for less expensive rent-stabilized units.

## Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

### 1 of 22 **New equipment for maintenance**

**DPR**

New equipment for maintenance

Purchase an additional hydraulic arm front loader garbage truck for quick and easy cleaning of garbage cans in parks and playgrounds in district 8.

### 2 of 22 **Dean Street Playground Lights**

**DPR**

Other requests for park, building, or access improvements

Install lamp posts around Dean Street Playground. Currently, there are no lights in Dean Street playground. The playground does not have an operating system and in the past relied upon stadium lights provided by DOT to illuminate the area. These lights are no longer used so the park is shrouded in darkness once the sun sets. Light posts placed strategically around the park will illuminate the playground without creating a nuisance situation for the park's residential neighbors like those that were caused when the stadium lights were used.

### 3 of 22 **Fix sprinkler at Brower Park Playground**

**DPR**

Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

The sprinkler system at Brower Park was inoperable during the 2025 summer season much to the dismay of residents due to a faulty pipe. Complete consolidate and expand playground and spray shower at Brower Park.

<b>4 of 22 Woods Playground renovation</b>	<b>DPR</b>
Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	
Completely reconstruct and expand playground including play equipment for all ages, safety surface, pavement, drainage, spray shower, landscaping in Woods Playground.	
<b>5 of 22 St. John's Recreation Center</b>	<b>DPR</b>
Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	
St. John's Recreation Center is heavily used. The center can benefit from a complete reconstruction of the facility inclusive of structural rehabilitation, doors, windows, utilities, HVAC, operating systems for pool and center, lighting, accessibility, elevators, program spaces, employee and public spaces, security, circulation, sign and speaker systems, youth safety and resiliency.	
<b>6 of 22 Woods Playground Comfort Station</b>	<b>DPR</b>
Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	
Completely renovate operable comfort station in Woods Playground	
<b>7 of 22 Brower Park Pathways</b>	<b>DPR</b>
Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	
We urge the completion of capital improvements at Brower park, which are inclusive of reconstruction of the paths, landscape, benches, lighting, perimeter fence and accessibility throughout Brower Park	
<b>8 of 22 Reconstruct Dean Street Playground</b>	<b>DPR</b>
Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	
Completely reconstruct playground at Dean Street Playground, including all new play equipment, new safety surface, sitting areas, landscaping and spray shower.	
<b>9 of 22 Underhill Playground</b>	<b>DPR</b>
Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	
At James Forten Playground, aka Underhill Playground, completely reconstruct and expand playground including play equipment for all ages, safety surface, pavement, drainage, spray shower, landscaping, paths. Estimated cost: \$6.5 million.	
<b>10 of 22 Brower Park Lights (Basketball)</b>	<b>DPR</b>
Other capital budget request for DPR	
Install lights around playground and basketball courts at Brower Park.	
<b>11 of 22 Lincoln Terrace Park Restroom (Playground)</b>	<b>DPR</b>
Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	
Renovate existing public restroom building adjacent to playground inside Lincoln Terrace Park	
<b>12 of 22 Underhill Playground comfort station</b>	<b>DPR</b>
Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	
Renovate existing operable comfort station at Underhill Playground	

<p><b>13 of 22 Brower Park Restroom</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>DPR</b></span>  Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park</p> <hr/> <p>Renovate operable restroom and HQ in Brower Park.</p>
<p><b>14 of 22 Brower Park Futsal</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>DPR</b></span>  Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <hr/> <p>Create oval synthetic turf futsal rea in Brower Park. Estimated cost: \$4 million</p>
<p><b>15 of 22 Woods Playground Basketball Courts</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>DPR</b></span>  Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <hr/> <p>At Woods Playground, reconstruct 2 full court basketball courts including drainage, pavement, color seal coat, fencing, lexan backboards, hoops with nets, 3 tier bleachers and seating, bottle filler, install adult fitness equipment, reconstruct handball wall, construct small synthetic turf play area</p>
<p><b>16 of 22 Lincoln Terrace Park Ballfield</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>DPR</b></span>  Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <hr/> <p>In Lincoln Terrace Park, reconstruct natural turf ballfield including drainage, new sod, new clay, shaded dugouts, new fencing, remove brick bleachers and replace with bleachers that allow safe site lines, flagpole, bottle filler accessible fountains, clay storage and grooming equipment storage. New pavement, drainage and benches in Carroll street alley and make accessible.</p>
<p><b>17 of 22 St. John's Park Multi-Sport Field</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>DPR</b></span>  Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <hr/> <p>Reconstruct multi-sport field with synthetic turf including new drainage and water supply, 3 tier bleachers and seating, bottle filler drinking fountain, security lighting, dugouts, fencing, bollards to regulate access</p>
<p><b>18 of 22 St. John's Park ballfield</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>DPR</b></span>  Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <hr/> <p>Reconstruct ballfield including new drainage and water supply, 3 tier bleachers and seating, bottle filler drinking fountain, security lighting, dugouts, fencing, bollards to regulate access</p>
<p><b>19 of 22 Mount Prospect Park Playground</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>DPR</b></span>  Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <hr/> <p>Reconstruct playground Including play equipment for all ages and abilities, safety surface, pavement, drainage, water supply, interactive spray shower, fences, security lighting, benches, seating landscaping. Replace flagpole with 20' aluminum pole. Correct drainage and grading conditions</p>
<p><b>20 of 22 Mount Prospect Park Fences and Curbs</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>DPR</b></span>  Other capital budget request for DPR</p> <hr/> <p>Replace all fences and curbs</p>

**21 of 22 Croquet Field in Prospect Park****DPR**

Other capital budget request for DPR

At the last public hearing on the Capital and Expense budget, a member requested the addition of a croquet field in Prospect Park. The member provided historical background on the Grecian Shelter (also referred to as the Prospect Park Peristyle), which was designated a Croquet Shelter on the original plans of Prospect Park. The member further clarified that refurbishing the historic site within the park would align with the initial vision of the park, which was community building and civic engagement. CB8 supports this vision and request, and hopes DPR is able to find funds or a private sponsor to bring this vision to life.

**22 of 22 Dog run/park****DPR**

Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

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.

**CS Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)****DPR**

Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

Completely reconstruct playground at St. Marks Playground, including play equipment for all ages, safety surface, pavement, drainage, interactive spray shower, landscaping, bollards on sidewalk, path, fencing, lockable gates.

**CS Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)****DPR**

Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

The skate park at Brower park is in dire need of refurbishment. Users cite an uneven and pitted ground that makes it impossible to skate safely, thus creating an immediate hazardous condition. Additionally, users cite awkward features/obstacles leaving no room to skate comfortably. The following suggestions have been provided to improve the skate park: 1. Repave the ground to be exactly like that of the basketball court. 2. Open the center and leave free of features/obstacles for acceleration/deceleration and free skating on flat ground. 3. Line the perimeter of the skate park with the same height and style ledges as the basketball courts. 4. Use a strong cement or granite for all features, obstacles, and ledges to withstand skating and BMX pegs.

**New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)****1 of 1 Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments****NYCHA**

Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments

We urge NYCHA to do a better job with their sustainability efforts for the housing developments in their portfolio. As the Brownsville power grid continues to struggle to support its service base, Con Ed has identified that NYCHA developments place most of the strain on the grid. We encourage the installation of solar panels to all NYCHA buildings and the use of energy efficient bulbs and appliances in all buildings. This in turn will aid tremendously in the effort to reduce strain on the power grid and also reduce the electricity bill owed to Con Edison.

**School Construction Authority****1 of 3 PS138 School Library****SCA**

Renovate or upgrade an elementary school

Refurbish school library at PS 138. The updates will include new furniture, modern technology, expanded book collections, and improved spaces for both study and collaboration. This project aims to transform the library into a state-of-the-art learning center that inspires students and supports their academic journey..

**2 of 3 PS 138 Cooling System****SCA**

Renovate or upgrade an elementary school

Install a cooling system in the auditorium and cafeteria of PS 138. During the warmer months, these areas become uncomfortable due to inadequate cooling systems. Installing modern air conditioning units will significantly improve the comfort and usability of these spaces for students, staff, and parents enhancing the overall experience in their school environment.

**3 of 3 PS 138 Hydroponics Lab****SCA**

Renovate or upgrade an elementary school

Build a hydroponics lab on the campus at PS 138. This facility will offer hands-on experience in modern agricultural techniques, empowering students with knowledge about environmental sustainability, plant biology, and innovative food production methods. It will also serve as a source of fresh produce for their cafeteria, aligning with their broader goal of teaching students about healthy and eco-friendly living.

**New York Police Department (NYPD)****1 of 1 Make 77th Precinct ADA compliant****NYPD**

Renovate or upgrade existing precinct houses

In the last year, CB8 has gotten several complaints that the 77th Precinct is not compliant with the American with Disabilities Act. Anyone visiting a precinct stationhouse should be able to do so easily, effortlessly, and safely. Making the 77th Precinct stationhouse ADA compliant will go a long way in ensuring protection, safety, and humane approaches for all.

**Fire Department of New York (FDNY)****1 of 1 Upgrade Women's Bathrooms and Facilities****FDNY**

Other FDNY facilities and equipment requests

With the growing number of female firefighters, it is important to prioritize improvement of conditions in their work environment. Currently, women are still relying on converted closets to bathrooms meaning that there is no ventilation, growing mold, and a general feeling of dis-ease when using facilities. Additionally, many firehouses lack proper changing areas for women firefighters leading to direct personal safety. As a city, it is crucial that we address the subpar conditions for our non male firefighters.

**EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS****Department of Transportation (DOT)****1 of 3 Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming****DOT**

Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming

We advocate for the installation of a mid-block signalized crosswalk on Buffalo Avenue between Eastern Parkway and East New York Avenue. This extremely long block is a crucial crossing point for the bisected Lincoln Terrace Park, and a mid block crossing would facilitate safe passage between the areas of the park that are heaviest used, including the tennis courts and the comfort station on the other side.

**2 of 3 Pacific Street Bike Lane****DOT**

Provide new bike lanes

Location: Pacific Street - Flatbush Avenue & Ralph Avenue  
Currently, a portion of Pacific Street has a bike lane (Ralph Avenue to Brooklyn Avenue). As calls for an east/west bike corridor on Atlantic Avenue--the only east/west truck route in District 8--grow louder, it is imperative that the bike lane on Pacific Street be extended to Flatbush Avenue to provide a safer corridor on which bikers can travel.

**3 of 3 Central Brooklyn Street Mobility and Parks Access****DOT**

Other traffic improvement requests

Perform traffic calming around Prospect Park to increase street mobility for other than personal automobiles and increase park access. This is performed by: -Completing the protected bicycle lane perimeter wrapping around Prospect Park by adding two-way protected bike lanes along the park's perimeter on Prospect Park Southwest and Ocean Avenue -Adding signalized crossings, mid-block crossings and pedestrian safety treatments at 10th Avenue along Prospect Park Southwest - Adding pedestrian safety treatments at 11th Avenue along Prospect Park Southwest -Redesigning Bartel-Pritchard Square to calm traffic and allow for safe cycle connections around the traffic circle and accessible pedestrian crossings through the circle. -Upgrading key paint-only bicycle connections to Prospect Park to become much safer barrier-protected bicycle lanes -A north/south connection to the Brooklyn Greenway, potentially on Vanderbilt, Underhill, Washington, Classon, or Franklin Avenues -Adding protected bike lanes to Prospect Park at key connections that currently lack any bicycle infrastructure, including: Coney Island Avenue -Extending Parkside Ave east of the southeast corner of the park and continuing onto Linden Boulevard Prospect Park West from Bartel Pritchard Square to the 20th Street Bike Boulevard -Creating additional pedestrian space at the Grand Army Plaza entrance to Prospect Park, including to specifically relieve crowding created at the Saturday greenmarket -Adding loading zones near the Lincoln Road entrance to Prospect Park so vehicles do not create hazards when loading in and out for commitments in the park

**New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA)****1 of 2 Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation****NYCTA**

Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation

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 B15, B45, B49, B47, B65, and B69, as these buses service numerous neighborhoods and transfer points.

**2 of 2 Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service****NYCTA**

Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service

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.

**New York Police Department (NYPD)****1 of 2 Hire additional crossing guards****NYPD**

Hire additional crossing guards

Members of CB8 were disheartened to learn that budget cuts resulted in the loss of crucial school crossing guards and further disheartened by the agency's response that the item is not supported and cannot be accommodated. Furthering members' dissatisfaction are the high profile deaths of youths on their way to school hit by vehicles at intersections that did not have crossing guards. Every intersection by a school needs to be manned by a crossing guard to keep students safe.

**2 of 2 Hire additional traffic enforcement agents****NYPD**

Hire additional traffic enforcement agents

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 and increase compliance.

**Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)**

**1 of 4 Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment** **DOHMH**  
Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment

The stigma of admitting to having a mental illness is great, especially in immigrant and communities of color. This stigma prevents those suffering symptoms from seeking help and prevents family members from understanding the many ways they can help. Moreover, the last few years have 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. Programs are needed to address the stigma because many more are willing to acknowledge their issues courtesy of the recent pandemic.

**2 of 4 Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning** **DOHMH**  
Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning

Recent years has seen a spike in sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes simplex 2, and chlamydia. These diseases that can cause severe irreversible life altering complications if left untreated, can easily be prevented with condom usage. It is imperative that safe sex campaigns be re-ignited as it seems the fear of dying from HIV/AIDS is not as prevalent today as years past due to recent medical treatment breakthroughs.

**3 of 4 Other programs to address public health issues requests** **DOHMH**  
Other programs to address public health issues requests

We urge the City to make all multiple dwelling housing units smoke-free, and also increase awareness of the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke inhalation. Current City Council proposed legislation to monitor air quality in multiple dwelling buildings fail to account for the impacts on air quality that cigarette smoke has, and thus, legislation to eliminate smoking indoors in multiple dwellings will protect residents with smoking neighbors from having to move and/or face dangerous health issues if they cannot afford to move.

**4 of 4 Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations** **DOHMH**  
Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations

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.

## Department for Homeless Services (DHS)

**1 of 1 Expand street outreach** **DHS**  
Expand street outreach

District office staff has experienced a deluge of complaints related to homeless encampments in hallways and stairwells of buildings as well as under scaffolding of moribund construction sites or private buildings that have not removed their years old scaffolding, and along certain isolated blocks within the manufacturing district of the western portion of the district. The sole provider of homeless street outreach for the borough of Brooklyn--Breaking Ground--is stretched too thin to successfully manage the growing load of homeless outreach requests. We advocate for an increase in Breaking Ground's budget to continue providing and also to expand, their valuable and much needed service., as well as the issuance of an RFP to find additional organizations that can perform street outreach.

## Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

**1 of 2 Clean catch basins** **DEP**  
Clean catch basins

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 events.

**2 of 2 Funding for lead testing and remediation**

**DEP**

Other expense request for DEP

Water service lines connect a building's plumbing to the City's water main in the street. Homeowners are responsible for their service line in its entirety. While water service lines made of lead have been banned since 1961 and the use of lead in household plumbing has been banned since 1987, some older homes (particularly 1-to-4-family homes) may still have lead pipes and fixtures. It is crucial that funding for lead testing and lead pipe remediation be made available to assist small property owners with keeping their homes safe and lead free.

**Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)**

**1 of 4 Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)**

**DPR**

Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)

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. Our outdoor spaces are integral to our health and wellbeing. As such, 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 in an effort to make our parks and playgrounds safe and enjoyable for all.

**2 of 4 Forestry services, including street tree maintenance**

**DPR**

Forestry services, including street tree maintenance

We encourage additional planting of new trees as well as better maintenance of existing trees. Contractors that plant new trees must be held accountable for tree care until the tree is able to thrive on its own. Furthermore, maintenance of existing trees includes more frequent pruning, de-weeding, enlarged tree pits, mulch, etc.

**3 of 4 Improve trash removal and cleanliness**

**DPR**

Improve trash removal and cleanliness

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. Existing resources to accommodate this request are currently not sufficient. Too often, we get complaints about trash in neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

**4 of 4 Other park maintenance and safety requests**

**DPR**

Other park maintenance and safety requests

We are requesting that the tree and sidewalk program provide greater forestry services including root pruning and sidewalk leveling where street trees have caused displacement of sidewalk flags. Additionally, private contractors that do sidewalk repair work should have clear and explicit guidelines on how to repair and level sidewalks without splicing roots and damaging trees similar to the guidelines that DPR contractors use. The agency's free design consultation services should be mandatory instead of optional during the permitting process.

**Department of Sanitation (DSNY)**

**1 of 4 Increase enforcement of alternate street parking cleaning rules**

**DSNY**

Increase enforcement of alternate street parking cleaning rules

The last 12 months has seen a dramatic increase in street cleanliness complaints in District 8. We advocate for strengthened enforcement and the return of section supervisors to ensure that vehicles that do not move for the street sweeper are ticketed.

**2 of 4 Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers**

**DSNY**

Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers

Smart bins usage in Prospect Heights is very high and there is a need for additional bins. Usage rates are so high that bins are often full before late morning has reached on days when the bins are dumped. Additional bins will allow greater access for organics collections and participation. Furthermore, we encourage increased collection of smart bins district-wide as they are a popular choice for residents in buildings that have yet to opt into curbside organics collections.

**3 of 4 Provide or expand community composting programs**

**DSNY**

Provide or expand community composting programs

Our community lacks robust education and outreach for organics collection and composting, which is critical for the success of municipal composting. Residents on the eastern end of District 8 lack a thorough understanding of organics collection and composting. We advocate for sustainability programs via additional community composting sites, food scraps drop off locations, more frequent collection as smart bins, and greater education/outreach about smart bins and composting.

**4 of 4 Increase enforcement of canine waste laws**

**DSNY**

Increase enforcement of canine waste laws

We understand that DSNY has eliminated its signage unit several years ago. However, it is imperative that Pooper Scooper law be enforced. Additional Sanitation Police Officers are needed to issue summonses to dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs. District 8 streets have become waste minefields that are difficult to navigate as the number of dog owners increases--as well as the number of careless dog owners. Canine waste has the potential to create health hazards for humans and other dogs. Dog owners must be held responsible for, and incentivized to properly care for their pets.

**Fire Department of New York (FDNY)**

**1 of 1 Expand funding for fire prevention and life safety initiatives**

**FDNY**

Expand funding for fire prevention and life safety initiatives

Fire safety education needs to be improved to maximize reach. District 8 has had several fatal residential fires in calendar year 2024. If the residents in the buildings had been properly educated, we believe most of the fires could have been prevented. While fears around uncertified lithium ion batteries from e-bikes remain high and at the forefront of educational initiatives, additional PSAs need to be issued around lesser feared causes of fire. Some of these include "dressed" or fancy candles with incendiary inclusions; burning incense; keeping appliances such as air fryers and crock pots plugged in and on while unattended; not using grounded outlets for larger appliances; not maintaining smoke alarms, etc.

**Administration for Children's Services (ACS)**

**1 of 2 Provide, expand, or enhance housing assistance for youth that are leaving foster care**

**ACS**

Provide, expand, or enhance housing assistance for youth that are leaving foster care

Young adults aging out of the foster care system are not provided all of the tools they need to make it on their own. We encourage bringing back and revamping the "Supervised Independent Living Program (SILP)" which gave foster kids ages 17 to 21 an opportunity to get ahead. In addition, we encourage the agency to continue, maintain, and expand all current programs.

**2 of 2 Provide, expand, or enhance funding to support higher education and/or workforce development opportunities for youth who are leaving foster care**

**ACS**

Provide, expand, or enhance funding to support higher education and/or workforce development opportunities for youth who are leaving foster care

Kids leaving foster care need assistance in order to be able to thrive and succeed in life. They need education support services, better access to grants, access to training and development programs to be able to earn a living and support themselves. We support the Fair Futures Coaching and advocate for increased funding for this and similar programs. We encourage expansion of the College Choice Program so that more students can benefit from the program.

**Brooklyn Public Library (BPL)**

**1 of 2 Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs**

**BPL**

Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs

We urge the restoration of funds to the Brooklyn Public Library system. In addition, encourage an increased budget for library operations, hours, and services so that the library can continue being a trusted and safe community space that meets the diverse needs of New Yorkers.

**2 of 2 Greater funding for book and digital library purchases**

**BPL**

Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs

Brooklyn Public Library and the greater library system across the city is a gem and cultural and recreational necessity. As such, it is crucial that the system receive additional funding to purchase additional books, increase the digital library, and other programming.

**Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA)**

**1 of 1 Support nonprofit cultural organizations**

**DCLA**

Support nonprofit cultural organizations

We encourage Cultural Affairs 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.

**Human Resources Administration (HRA)**

**1 of 1 Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services**

**HRA**

Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services

We must keep in mind that our vulnerable populations are at risk for abuse from family members and home health aides seeking to take advantage of their frail emotional or 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. We encourage HRA to increase funding for these programs and enhance service provision.

**Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)**

**1 of 5 Provide, expand, or enhance adolescent literacy programs and services**

**DYCD**

Provide, expand, or enhance adolescent literacy programs and services

The invisible crisis facing NYC is that nearly two out of three children affected by systemic poverty cannot read at grade level. Children who can't transition from "learning to read to reading to learn" by third grade are 13 times more likely not to graduate on time from high school if they graduate at all. Sadly, the crisis does not end there as 64% of NYC middle school students read below their grade's reading level. These students face much worse outcomes in life like incarceration, gang activity, under employment, continued poverty, mental depression, and several other disorders that have the potential to lower their quality of life. Additional literacy programs and services to bring them up to level are necessary to allow them to thrive.

**2 of 5 Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out**

**DYCD**

Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out

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.

**3 of 5 Gaming, Coding, AI****DYCD**

Provide, expand, or enhance after school programs for elementary school students (grades K-5)

Youth without constructive activities tend to fall behind their peers in educational attainment and social quotient. It is imperative that additional programs be made available in those areas that youth are interested in today: gaming, coding, AI, music production, theater, music, arts, etc. More inclusive programming needs to be made available outside of simply focusing on STEM and sports.

**4 of 5 Coding, Gaming, AI****DYCD**

Provide, expand, or enhance after school programs for middle school students (grades 6-8)

Youth without constructive activities tend to fall behind their peers in educational attainment and social quotient. It is imperative that additional programs be made available in those areas that youth are interested in today: gaming, coding, AI, music production, theater, music, arts, etc. More inclusive programming needs to be made available outside of simply focusing on STEM and sports.

**5 of 5 Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs****DYCD**

Provide, expand, or enhance Cornerstone and Beacon programs (all ages, including young adults)

There is certainty that kids without productive and stimulating activities 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. We urge funding for sports programs like this and similar, as well as STEM programs and other activities (gaming, cooking, gardening, etc) that youth may be interested in engaging with, to promote their social well-being. Every community district needs to have a PAL (police athletic league) building and programming available for youth.

**Department for the Aging (DFTA)****1 of 8 Increase transportation services capacity****DFTA**

Increase transportation services capacity

The CB8 Seniors Committee members identified increased transportation options as a top senior issue for the district. They specifically cited already miniscule safe travel options that often become even more difficult to navigate due to infrequent bus service, Open Streets rerouting certain bus lines, and rising crime on public transportation. An increase in senior transportation, whether via para transit or taxi vouchers, or volunteer services to transport seniors to appointments or even grocery shopping, should be provided.

**2 of 8 Financial programs for senior homeowners****DFTA**

Enhance educational and recreational programs

Deed theft continues to rise and lead to displacement of CB8's residents, especially seniors, who are the number one target of speculative real estate individuals. Financial education for senior homeowners is crucial to protecting seniors, their homes, and their livelihoods.

**3 of 8 Enhance programs for elder abuse victims****DFTA**

Enhance programs for elder abuse victims

The 7 most common types of elder abuse include physical, neglect, emotional, financial, sexual, self-neglect, and abandonment. Any of these elder abuse types can be devastating to older people and their families. Too often, our elders are too prideful, 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.

**4 of 8 Continue Crime Prevention/Victim Assistance Program for Seniors**

**DFTA**

Continue Crime Prevention/Victim Assistance Program for Seniors

Seniors need to be protected as they are targeted at an accelerated pace by scammers, and are the group of people least likely to be able to weather financial losses. We need to ensure that seniors and the elderly as well as those lacking mental acuity are protected from scammers and receive necessary services to help them recover in the instances when they are victims of scam operations. Additionally, greater efforts need to be made to ensure that seniors have educational resources available to them in modalities that are wide ranging to accommodate their needs (inclusive of print, radio, television, and other types of campaigns).

**5 of 8 Enhance home care services**

**DFTA**

Enhance home care services

Home care is a health service provided in the patient's home to promote, maintain, or restore health or lessen the effects of illness and disability. Services may include nursing care, speech, physical and occupational therapies, home health aide services and personal care services. 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 as a form of holistic healing.

**6 of 8 Create programs for Senior Vitality and Active Engagement programs**

**DFTA**

Enhance educational and recreational programs

As more and more seniors are seeking active lives and trying to be outside to avoid social isolation, it is imperative that we create more options for senior vitality and active movement programs. These programs will help to keep our seniors active, healthy, and fully engages with life.

**7 of 8 Financial education programs**

**DFTA**

Enhance educational and recreational programs

Additional programming needs to be added to OAC's for financial education to help prevent theft and scams.

**8 of 8 AI training for older adults**

**DFTA**

Enhance educational and recreational programs

As the digital divide continues to grow wider, greater impacts are seen as our seniors are being left further and further behind. As AI use grows, it is difficult to discern fact from fiction, and this can lead to the potential for unintended victimization of our seniors. Consequently, it is crucial that technology, AI training, and coding programming be added to all Older Adult Centers so our seniors can stop viewing AI and technology as an alien concept.

**Department of Small Business Services (SBS)**

**1 of 1 Educational Campaigns for Commercial Waste Zones**

**SBS**

Assist with on-site business compliance with City regulations

Our small businesses need as much assistance as possible in opening and staying open. There is no easy route to finding out information, no singular place that can make navigating licensure or obtaining clarity easier. An example of the issues arising from the lack of clear information and instruction is navigating new commercial waste laws in the city. Consequently, we advocate for educational campaigns that can assist with preventing unnecessary fines and summonses. It would be helpful if SBS could create an information portal in one location for frequently asked questions.

**Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)**

**1 of 2 Employ more people in Eviction Prevention and Assistance unit**

**HPD**

Provide, expand, or enhance tenant protection programs

The affordability crisis is worsening in the city and District 8 residents are directly impacted by the increase in cases in Landlord/Tenant Court. As such, it is imperative that funding be increased to hire and train more workers for eviction assistance and for the Right to Counsel Program. Even if you qualify for the program, the representation rate is about 30%, which is too low for the need.

**2 of 2 Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations**

**HPD**

Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations

We appreciate the agency's efforts to increase inspector headcount and increased civil penalties. However, the growing affordability crisis in New York City coupled with the increase in cases in landlord/tenant court illustrates the demand for additional enforcement officers. Aging housing stock in some areas has led to a growing number of residents living in unkept units with habitability violations. Because not everyone has the luxury of means to move to better housing options, HPD needs to ensure that consequences and repercussions for allowing units to fall into disrepair are great enough and harsh enough to encourage speedy and proper repair to units. Inspections are crucial for tenants in landlord/tenant court and the lack of timely inspections hampers tenants' cases and leads to eviction.

**Office of Management and Budget (OMB)**

**1 of 1 Increase budgets for Community Boards**

**OMB**

Other community board facilities and staff requests

Community Board budgets have not had a line increase in over 20 years. CB8 staff is minimal with only two people despite community needs growing. Funding is not available to hire additional staff or even pay for training in emerging industries (like AI and coding languages necessary to navigate Open Data and other city information gathering sites) to keep with the needs of residents. Equipment is becoming obsolete with no funding in site to replace and upgrade.