

## **2017 CB6 NEEDS AND PRIORITIES- FULL WORKING DRAFT**

### **NARRATIVE**

Community District Six encompasses the East Side of Manhattan from 14th to 59th Streets, from the East River to Lexington Avenue and farther west in some areas to include Gramercy Park, Murray Hill, Turtle Bay and parts of East Midtown. Additional well-known neighborhoods lie within our boundaries: Sutton Place, Beekman Place, Tudor City, Kips Bay, Rosehill, East Midtown Plaza, Waterside Plaza, Stuyvesant Square, Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village.

The district is a mixture of residential, commercial, medical, educational and institutional uses with major office buildings, including Citigroup Center and the Chrysler building, and retail shops lining the avenues. There are several medical facilities used by all New Yorkers including Mt. Sinai Beth Israel Hospital, VA Medical Center, Bellevue Hospital, NYU Langone Medical Center, and NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases. Numerous substance abuse, mental health, and ambulatory care clinics as well as some facilities of the New York Eye and Ear Hospital are located in the district. CD6 hosts the 30th St Shelter, the city's largest at 850 beds, Samaritan Village on 53rd, New Providence Women's Shelter and other homeless facilities. The district includes the growing Baruch College campus, the School of Visual Arts, the NYU School of Medicine, the NYU College of Dentistry, and the Beren Campus of Yeshiva University, Stern College and other institutions. We host numerous bioscience laboratories out of the Alexandria Center for Life Science and expect more facilities as NYU continues expansion. CD6 is also home to the United Nations as well as hundreds of missions and diplomatic residences.

While recognizing the diversity of residential and commercial use, the district is primarily a middle-income community that has significant numbers of low-income residents and a large elderly population, many living on fixed incomes. We are always mindful that data about the neighborhoods of affluence in the district must not mask the very real need for access to affordable housing, homeless and general social services, and adequate measures for personal safety and overall well-being for all our neighbors.

There are five Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) within CD6 or at its borders: The Grand Central Partnership, 34th Street Partnership, East Midtown Association, Union Square Partnership and the Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership. These continue to improve the quality of life within the district and we encourage the city to continue endorsing new BIDs.

On October 29, 2012, Superstorm Sandy had tumultuous effects on New York City and the entire region. A large portion of CD6 was especially hard hit and

experienced an extended period without electricity and basic services. Our hospitals were forced to close for a significant time and came back online slowly. Area businesses experienced significant losses in revenue, and severe flooding affected the Waterside, Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village developments and the surrounding area. The city has begun to address the potential impact of future storms and it is critical that CD6 is not overlooked in planning and rebuilding. We are heartened to see progression of the "Big U" project for coastal resiliency, which affects our district, since we believe that preparation for natural and man-made disasters must become part of the fabric of planning for the future whether that be in transforming our coast lines, redesigning structures, or caring for the most vulnerable demographics in times of emergency.

We also must draw attention to the two 197-a plans prepared by CB6 and adopted, with modifications, by the CPC and the City Council. These long term planning documents should guide future action of all city agencies and are integral to the understanding of the needs of our district. This is particularly true in planning related to the waterfront and for the medical corridor that is anchored by First Avenue from 14th Street to 38th Street. CB6 is committed to seeing the planning guidelines and specific proposals of the 197-a plans fully implemented.

## **CONDITIONS OF TOP PRIORITY**

Despite major residential development in Manhattan CD6, affordable housing in our district is disappearing, and we seek to remedy the situation. Due to the loss of Mitchell-Lama and Section 8 housing and fewer rent-controlled and rent-regulated housing units, areas in CD6 are becoming increasingly income segregated. In order to support and retain population and economic diversity, the board seeks new or reclaimed low and moderate-income housing within the district. An uptick in homelessness in the city and our area in particular could be mitigated, as would the housing difficulties of other vulnerable New Yorkers, such as fixed-income seniors.

Regarding senior services, CD6 hosts 22,809 persons age 65 and over, a growth of almost 10% since the year 2000, and of these, 47% were 75 and older. There are now just two city-supported senior centers in the district. The Community Lounge, formerly located at 155 East 22nd St, closed in December 2012. The reduction in senior center locations is clearly unfortunate since, according to the 2010 Census, 15.6% of the district population is age 65 or older. Many of our expense requests reflect our need for additional senior services for a whole host of Aging in Place initiatives which organizations and constituents feel are warranted to serve this population.

Finally, CD6 has the least amount of open space of any community district in Manhattan. Census data shows our child-age population growing quickly - more

playground and recreation space is needed. The overall population would benefit from a quality of life standpoint from additional green spaces. Moreover, much of the open space we do have has fallen into disrepair.

## **HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **MOST PRESSING ISSUE**

In CD6 there are 22,809 persons age 65 and over, a growth of almost 10% since the year 2000, and of these, 47% were 75 and older. We have the highest median age in the city. CB6 capital budget requests for additional senior centers and adult daycare services dating from a decade ago continue to go unmet. Additionally, loss of affordable housing and limited transportation options make it increasingly difficult for CD6 seniors to live here.

### **COMMENTS – HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

There are several major hospitals in CD6, used by all New Yorkers, including Mt. Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center, VA Medical Center, Bellevue Hospital, NYU Langone Medical Center, and the NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases. Numerous substance abuse, mental health, and other ambulatory care clinics as well as some facilities of the New York Eye and Ear Hospital are located in CD6. We look forward to continued cooperation with these medical facilities as they expand and modernize their operations.

For decades, CB6 has been advocating for a strategic plan to determine Bellevue Hospital's immediate and future health care and land use needs, especially prior to any potential disposition of property. No such study has ever been conveyed to the board. In the meantime, Bellevue sustained serious damage from Superstorm Sandy and is still addressing measures necessary to prevent future damage as well as prepare for effective response under any emergency circumstances; we understand federal funding was allocated for these purposes, but neighboring institutions received more money. The board supports the essential mission of Bellevue as the city's premier public hospital. We will continue to advocate for updated facilities, state-of-the-art equipment, and improved services there.

CB6 has taken note of the lack of high quality skilled nursing facilities in Manhattan and especially within CD6. Also, the number of hospice beds is woefully inadequate. The NYC Department of City Planning projects that Manhattan's elderly population, aged 65 and over, will grow by 57.9% between 2000 and 2030, adding 108,000 elderly persons. CD6 has seen an increase in the number of persons age 65 and over of 9.8% just since the 2000 census . and more than 45% of these individuals are 75 and older. We therefore must plan for the additional health and other support services needed by this population.

Consistent with the 197-a Plan, we are looking at development of health-related facilities within the area referred to as the "medical corridor." Among other

options, we would welcome a sub-acute facility or multiple use facility that would allow for a continuum of care for seniors and others. Non-medical related uses within this corridor, such as the proposed Sanitation Garage, will be subject to the greatest scrutiny.

Priorities:

- Expand Bellevue Hospital's C-CPEP Waiting Room and Family Meeting and Interview Area
- Establish \$5 Million capital fund for equipment replacement
- Increase Funding for Rat Abatement Activity in CD6.

## **COMMENTS – FACILITIES FOR OLDER NEW YORKERS**

As mentioned throughout our report, CD6 has the highest mean age in the city, hosting a population where over 15% is 65 and older. Senior services are of paramount importance, especially since seniors are likelier to have income restraints. It is vital that senior centers are located in modern facilities and that they have the funds to provide services, not just for the frail, but also for active seniors. Computer labs with Internet access provide a wide range of opportunities so all seniors may research issues related to their health, keep informed of programs for their age group, and expand their skill set. Education on how to manage benefits online should lead to improved quality of life as well as greater use of federal programs and less reliance on city funds. CB6 consistently advocates for a Lifelong Learning Center in budget requests to provide on-going education for seniors. Our current centers are at capacity, and we need this type of center placed midway in the district. A major hurdle, in addition to funding, has been finding suitable space for such a center. We propose shared space with existing educational facilities, or identification of underutilized city-owned spaces.

In order to encourage innovative programming, we urge the city to provide funding that looks beyond just the number of meals served and focuses instead on the services seniors seek for social and mental stimulation. We are pleased by DFTA's efforts to introduce innovative senior centers, which fulfill this goal; however, none of the centers are in CD6.

In addition to meals and programming, aging-in-place services are vital, like homecare (a cheaper option than nursing homes) and escort assistance. Respite assistance for caregivers also is needed and ultimately, is a cost-cutting measure. Further, affordable housing options should keep this segment in mind - seniors should be able to remain in their neighborhoods of choice. Specialized legal needs and support for the physically and financially abused elderly have recently arisen as pressing concerns.

We understand federal funding has been cut over the years, but various studies suggest an aging population and services supporting it remain vital . these requests are shared by CD6 across New York (see attachment). The city must take steps to make up the funding gap since we can no longer rely on other government sources.

#### Priorities

- Develop an Adult Day Care Center/ Life Long Learning Senior Center
- Allocate Additional Funding for Home Assistance
- Enhance elder abuse programs

### **COMMENTS – FACILITIES FOR THE HOMELESS**

CD6 has demonstrated great compassion for the homeless in its midst, and is aware of the enormous demands for service needed by this population. CB6 is encouraged now that the Mayor's funding for services and outreach have increased, but maintains that this funding should not be reactionary in light of recent public outcry . such programming should be maintained as long as it is effective and as long as the problem of homelessness exists.

CB6 encourages DHS to continue its difficult work to combat homelessness, and we have directed requests to HPD and DOHMH such as additional low- and moderate-income housing construction and preservation, additional city funding towards a NY/NY IV program, and additional housing units specifically for homeless families - offering CD6 for some of these units along with community input on where to locate them. We also encourage DHS, whenever possible, to experiment with alternatives to sheltering and find more suitable and cost-effective options for re-housing. The new LINC program is an excellent start and we look forward to measurable results in the coming months.

CD6 hosts the 30th St Shelter, the city's largest at 850 beds, Samaritan Village on 53rd, New Providence Women's Shelter and others. Through various Community Advisory Boards (CABs), we seek continued cooperation from DHS, NYPD, and the shelters' leadership to address ongoing issues related to areas surrounding these facilities. The community's security - as well as that of the homeless population - is of prime importance, along with those problems associated with the host district's quality of life.

#### Priorities

- Provide programs for homeless veterans through DHS's VSU

## **COMMENTS – FACILITIES FOR OTHER VULNERABLE NY-ERS**

CD6 welcomes programming that seeks to help individuals find employment opportunities, particularly when a job can allow them to exit public assistance. It is estimated that over 5% of our district receives some form of government-funded income support; many of these residents do not have the skills to gain employment in a competitive, changing marketplace. Free or affordable job training programs and employment-readying services are essential to this mission.

We acknowledge the city's progress in integrating social services to make it easier for individuals and families to reach the proper agencies and programs when they need help. AccessNYC, the city's benefits portal, allows them to more easily attain those benefits, including food assistance, rent support and supplemental health insurance, which stabilize their current hardships. Further outreach is needed to make sure CD6 residents are aware of this website. Despite recent federal cuts, we must make sure citizens know they might have food, housing and medical security in these still-difficult economic times.

As CD6 continues to see luxury residential development replace low- and middle-income housing, HRA's oversight of legal services becomes an indispensable part of the affordable housing arsenal, as fixed-income constituents, including seniors, face landlord harassment and complicated visits to Housing Court. We welcome the city's major investment in legal aid for these and other purposes that assist people in staying in their current home, thereby solidifying our neighborhoods. Increased funding for these programs should be maintained in FY 2017 and beyond to avoid displacing neighbors and prevent homelessness.

- Provide job training programs



## **YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE**

### **MOST PRESSING ISSUE**

School Capacity: Schools in the district are at maximum capacity with no room to grow with increased demand, despite having a new school open in 2013. The IBO reported in March 2015 that while 934 new seats in our district were needed to eliminate overcrowding, zero (0) new capacity was planned by the School Construction Authority.

### **COMMENTS – EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

School seats and insufficient afterschool and support services for children continue to be a problem in CD6. Schools in the district are at max capacity with no room to grow. The attached IBO testimony and graph show zero seats planned despite almost 1000 seats needed right now. The board's ability to address overcrowding is hampered by the lack of adequate communication about proposed educational plans and resource allocation. Although PS 281 opened in 2013, issues have already arisen, including child safety concerns due to changing traffic patterns and construction on adjacent sites, as well as the concerns about the anticipated lack of sunlight in the schoolyard and potential degradation of St. Vartan Park across the street. We reiterate: communication between boards and the DOE and School Construction Authority would improve outcomes.

To keep our schools up to date, they need appropriate technology upgrades and wiring to support the bandwidth of tomorrow. Some schools in CD6 have upgraded infrastructure, but we urge that the needs of all schools be addressed. Refurbished facilities would also be available for community events providing year-round multi-purpose utilization of school buildings. Our schools should also be constantly monitored for air quality to protect our children from exposure to toxic substances. Overall, CD6, located in School District 2, should see a greater rate of spending per child, since IBO reports we have among the lowest per-pupil allocations in the city.

CB6 continues to urge that the old Police Academy location on East 20th St should be considered a possible location for a school once the NYPD vacates. It is our current understanding that the agency does not have immediate plans to leave, but we urge the administration to include the board and surrounding community in any future planning for this site as required by the New York City Charter.

CB6 has a stated position that any future private charter schools not be placed in current public school facilities as this undermines their efficacy. In addition, CB6 supports the establishment and continuation of a capital fund, similar to the funding provisions negotiated for the Solow site (former ConEd site) which

resulted in the construction of PS 281 to address increased collateral needs, such as new schools, created by residential development.

#### Priorities

- Replace fifth floor windows at PS 40.
- Upgrade adult/ staff restrooms at PS 40.
- Resurface the roof playground at PS 40/Salk
  
- Provide Additional Computers and Instructional Technology in Schools

### **COMMENTS – SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND CHILD WELFARE**

CB6 appreciates the difficulty and quantity of the caseload covering children's issues in New York. We support efforts that accommodate an effective and appropriate caseworker-per-child ratio. Proper management of these cases can help prevent foster care by providing households with counseling and services that allow the family to stay intact, thereby reducing the need to monitor a sometimes unwieldy foster system. Kinship programs, where relatives care for the child in lieu of strangers, should be promoted where possible, and support for those caregivers must be adequately distributed. Our board also encourages lead agencies to promote foster parenting to citizens within our borders in cooperation with the CD6 office.

ACS's facility on First Ave in CD6 is an item the board would like to collaborate further on with the agency. We welcome constructive dialogue to help identify, understand and support ACS's priorities and objectives. We seek to establish a Community Advisory Board (CAB) that can better connect this institution to the district.

Additionally, CD6 recognizes the important role ACS plays in early childhood education and welcomes new hires to manage programs and providers of such services. It is essential that, coupled with Universal Pre-K, EarlyLearn and other initiatives seek funding to achieve maximum enrollment in CD6 and beyond.

- Provide, expand, or enhance preventive services

### **COMMENTS – YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

CB6 asks for the development of youth services targeted to children in our district. The at-capacity and potentially overcrowded conditions in our schools require that we provide every opportunity possible to focus on the needs of our school-age population. Even more acute is the lack of dedicated centers

providing such services in CD6 (such as Beacon or Cornerstone facilities), while other districts host several. We recognize that federal and state funding are critical components for financing such projects, but we ask that New York City take greater responsibility for providing youth services and increase efforts to procure the necessary funding from state, federal and private sources.

Additionally, CD6 school principals should be consulted regularly to identify additional programming that would help their pupils make the most of their out-of-school time. The city should build on recent successes of programs like SONYC and expand the initiatives currently under COMPASS so that all New York youths are encouraged to participate in positive activities when out of school. Reports show that if available, after-school programs in general could receive as much as double the amount of enrollment if more program capacity were available (see attachment). Of the major programming made available by the Department of Youth and Community Development, their September 2015 summary shows only 6 distinct initiatives in CD6 . our district is at the bottom of the list as compared to other Manhattan districts.

CB6 also notes the value in getting teens the training and experience they need in advance of entering the workforce. Greater access to internships or part-time employment, such as through the Summer Youth Employment program, can mitigate the difficulties of adjusting to full-time work. Training programs for teens that may not think college is an option is also needed to ensure they have the skills for jobs regardless of their post-secondary education decisions. Our board asks that, when funded, a fair share of these services be provided within CD6.

#### Priorities

- Increase funding for a diverse range of after-school/ out-of-school programs at all grade levels
- Provide, expand, or enhance the Summer Youth Employment Program

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **MOST PRESSING ISSUE**

General Crime: The CB6 office has received a noticeable increase in calls regarding smaller crimes, most but not all associated with quality of life concerns, but still requiring attention from our police precincts. Loitering, aggressive panhandling, littering, drug use and public drinking and urination have spurred action on the part of residents to form new community alliances to address them. Overflow associated with our many shelters and certain support-service clinics has also been a focus of CD6 concern. The NYPD has taken notice but should do more to tackle these issues.

### **COMMENTS - POLICING AND CRIME**

The increased staffing of the 13th and 17th Precincts has been our Number 1 expense budget request for several years. CB6 is pleased to hear the budget includes additional officers throughout the city, and we look forward to receiving our fair share of new personnel. While our crime rate remains stable over 2014, issues associated with some of our homeless shelters and some clinics, particularly headlines regarding the 30th Street Shelter, have stirred CD6 residents' interest, increasing calls about issues including public drinking and drug use, loitering in playgrounds, aggressive littering, and panhandling. Through Community Advisory Boards (CABs), we continue to communicate with NYPD, lead agencies and the service sites to find solutions to these problems, including more frequent patrols of surrounding streets.

As traffic worsens in CD6, so do infractions. Blocking of intersections, parking in bus and bike lanes, and illegal stopping are frequently not cited. This adds to potential dangers to our pedestrian-heavy district (see attachment). We are pleased that police enforcement of the safe use of bicycles has increased; however, this is an issue of great concern to the neighborhood and ongoing efforts are required. Vision Zero should take care to place emphasis on improving biking's relationship to the transportation landscape.

Noise remains the top complaint as registered by 311. There have been many concerns voiced by the community about the concentration of bars along 2nd and 3rd Avenues, particularly in the East 20s, 30s and 50s. These areas are heavily congested and noisy when patrons congregate outside or leave the venue. Some owners blast music out of open storefronts. Advertised pub crawls exacerbate the issue. Residents have found calls to 311 frustrating as law enforcement has many hours to respond to non-emergency; therefore, there is limited response to these issues when they are actually happening. NYPD should coordinate activities with DEP to provide better response times to address these ongoing violations.

Finally, CB6 would like to see the old Police Academy on East 20th St become a school if fully vacated by NYPD. We expect to participate in planning studies on new uses for the site.

#### Priorities

- Assign additional traffic enforcement officers
- Maintain current levels of uniformed officers at 13th
- Assign additional uniformed officers 17th
- Renovate or upgrade existing 13<sup>th</sup> precinct house

### **COMMENTS - EMERGENCY SERVICES**

CD6 hosts first-class emergency rooms and hospital facilities within its borders. Our first responders should have state-of-the-art bases and training, ready for more of the potential crises we have experienced in the recent past. The community is better served, while our firefighters, EMS workers and other emergency support workers feel more capable when fulfilling their missions if they are equipped with the right tools.

Particular to EMS Battalion 8 is the issue of construction and renovation of sites adjacent to their facility. With a potential sanitation garage complex on East 25<sup>th</sup> St bringing additional traffic and the upcoming resiliency-related upgrades at Bellevue Hospital Center, CB6 is concerned Battalion 8 will be hampered or may have to be temporarily relocated. We will watch the progress at these sites so that they do not adversely affect this essential deliverer of emergency services.

Responding to emergencies does not just begin with city emergency personnel - studies show that bystander CPR training initiatives improve health outcomes significantly (see attached report). CB6 would like to see additional city funds for CPR and life safety programs via NYC Service to make up for shortfalls in funding provided by the FDNY Foundation. In addition, we stress the continued need for funding for all manner of education regarding fire safety, as the FDNY reported zero fire fatalities in June 2015, the first month with such a statistic in 150 years, and feels confident its outreach efforts are working.

#### Priorities

- Provide Back-Up Generators at Engine 021
- Provide Back-Up Generators Engine 016/007
- Extend Funding of the FDNY CPR Initiative

## **CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND CITY SERVICES**

### **MOST PRESSING ISSUE**

Noise Pollution: With major arteries and approaches, such as to the Queens Midtown Tunnel and the 59th St Bridge, and due to increased bike/bus lanes and private and public street closures, traffic has become a major problem and results in increased noise. Additionally, high-rise building construction is rampant and causes its own noise pollution. With several bar and nightlife stretches, we also experience noise complaints due to evening activities. Noise is the number-one CD6 resident complaint to 311.

### **COMMENTS – WATER, SEWER AND ENVIRONMENT**

CB6 continues to advocate for measures that better the overall environmental quality of the district, including resolutions on greater efficiency for city vehicles and boats, monitoring of construction projects and "macro" items, such as advocacy for greater recycling efforts and full completion of the city's Third Water Tunnel. However, we look for support in day-to-day monitoring of air and noise pollution.

With increased traffic congestion due to several factors, street noise and concerns about air quality have increased. As the attached Air Survey maps show, NO2 levels, heavily weighted towards traffic levels, remains at their highest in Manhattan CD6.

Other contributing factors to air and noise pollution: The 34th Street Heliport's noise, odors and air blast impacts have drawn criticism from local residents and necessitated replacement of costly air filtration equipment at NYU Langone Medical Center. Residential and commercial real estate development in the district raises many of the same noise and air concerns. Additionally, our prominent nightlife districts result in frequent calls from residents to 311, complaining about loud patrons and blaring music from open storefronts into the early morning hours (see attachment).

A greater number of inspectors to monitor our air quality and noise are needed. CB6 also believes better coordination between DEP and other agencies could prove fruitful (NYPD in the case of traffic and nightlife; DOT with regards to conducting a traffic study in the district; DOB when it comes to onsite construction inspections and asbestos abatement).

#### Priorities

- Add Noise Pollution Control Inspectors for CD6

## COMMENTS – SANITATION

Trash complaints to the CD6 office, both residential and on our streets, seem to have increased. We continue to note that additional enforcement of alternate sides of the street regulations is needed to facilitate regular maintenance. Some sidewalks in the district do not fare as well as the streets and are continuously littered. Existing litter baskets often fill to overflowing. Additional city litter baskets and a review of the frequency of pickups would be helpful. Commercial and residential garbage can sit on the street for many hours in advance of pickup creating an odor and unsightly mess that also attracts rodents. We support the addition of sanitation trucks and crews to increase pickups and address both the litter problem and improperly handled commercial and residential garbage.

Additional pickups also seem needed to handle the increase in mandated recycling efforts. Small and medium sized buildings do not have space to store the added volume between once-weekly pickup times. It's time to treat recycling the same as trash with both collection and enforcement.

Of most urgent note, DSNY with EDC has proposed that a garage be located at the former Hunter College Brookdale Campus, 425 East 25th St, between First Ave and FDR Dr. While CB6 recognizes the principle of locating such facilities in or near the district being served, we have objected to the placement of this project in the middle of the medical corridor (between Bellevue Center and the VA Hospital) and near major residential developments and schools. The location is in clear opposition to our 197-a plan. A recent planning study commissioned by CB6 proposed two alternatives that have gone ignored (see attachment). We still have no specifics as to plans for the remainder of the site on either end of the planned garage, even after several scoping hearings with community groups, but the ULURP process remains. CB6 remains opposed to this site.

### Priorities

- Allocate an Additional Basket Truck for Sanitation Pickups in CD6

## **LAND USE, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **MOST PRESSING ISSUE**

Affordable Housing: Despite widespread development throughout the district in the last two decades, CD6 has received few new affordable housing units. CD6 has also lost many stabilized units that have phased out of state and city subsidy programs. The district has become one that a typical middle-class family, senior citizens and low-income persons, are hard-pressed to afford.

### **COMMENTS – LAND USE**

Before the 2008 recession, CD6 saw rapid building growth, with over 2000 additional residential units and several million sq ft since the 2000 Census, plus over 2 million sq ft of new office and retail space. As of July 2015, a boom in residential permitting has returned, with building applications at record highs. DOB and related agencies will need enough tools and personnel to process paperwork and inspect sites correctly. Rapid growth will require more open space, transit options and city services.

The rezoning of about 70 blocks of East Midtown remains on our radar. CB6 continued to participate in the East Midtown Steering Committee until its conclusion in August 2015. CB6 remains an advocate for expanded transportation and subsurface infrastructure and specific public realm upgrades. The Vanderbilt Corridor rezoning passed the City Council, with general community board support due to additional transit improvements the Council negotiated. We hope to work with DCP and partners to preserve East Midtown's global competitiveness in the 21st Century, while retaining some human scale and meeting demands of local residents. This applies not just to multi-block rezoning, but also to the rising number of individual sites slated for skyscrapers, which CB6 opposes when they threaten the scale and character of a neighborhood.

As to re-mapping streets, 30th St east of First Ave does not appear on the official city map, thus is technically not a street. In our 2008 City Council-approved 197-a plan, CB6 stated its desire to re-map this street. NYU has no objection as long as it does not completion of their new science building on the block. Another re-mapping request is 26th St east of First, at the site of the proposed DSNY Garage. The Sanitation Garage Working Group requested that DSNY re-map the street as it enhances oversight of adjoining parcels. It is unclear whether Bellevue is opposed.

Regarding the DSNY garage, the proposed rezoning would change the property from an R to M zone, which would constitute spot zoning. The property is located between Bellevue and the VA, an area designated as a medical corridor in CD6's

197-a plan. The community at large asks that the ULURP process take objections into account. Due to strong local opposition and since it contradicts our 197-a, CB6 remains opposed to this site.

## **COMMENTS - HOUSING NEEDS AND PROGRAMMING**

As shown on the attached charts illustrating rent increases and loss of subsidized housing, CD6 is confronting a housing crisis along with the rest of the city. We also show that CD6 did not benefit greatly from the New Market Place program under the prior administration, nor have we seen significant upticks in preservation or new affordable development under the current Housing New York plan. In order to support and retain our existing residents and promote economic diversity, CB6 calls on the city to commit funds to provide new or reclaimed low- and moderate-income housing within the district, with particular attention to senior citizens and other fixed-income households.

Our community has demonstrated great compassion for the homeless and is aware of the enormous demands for service needed by this population. CD6 welcomed new developments within the district built or converted under the successful city-and-state joint program NY/NY III, which created 9000 supportive housing units for the mentally-ill homeless and other target segments. We believe it is essential that a successor NY/NY IV program learn from the positive lessons in interagency communication and community involvement in site selection (led in the city by DOHMH and HPD). While we applaud continuing the effort, we join other organizations in asking the Governor and the Mayor to increase each side's financial commitment to NY/NY IV to the generally-agreed goal of 30,000 units. The case can be made financially, as shown in the attached report, which shows the savings of providing housing versus sheltering or institutionalizing this population (\$40 per day vs. \$802 per day).

Homelessness is not just a function of disability but also of affordability. CD6 seeks additional permanent placement for homeless families, which require larger units than those offered via other programs. HPD and DHS should consider allocating an increased portion of the city's affordable housing resources to this population. CD6 welcomes some units within its borders.

### Priorities

- Preserve Existing and Develop Additional Low and Moderate Income Housing
- Develop Additional Housing for the Homeless Mentally ill (NYNY)
- Develop Additional Permanent Housing for Homeless Families
- Replace lobby and rear doors at NYCHA Strauss Houses/344 E 28th

## COMMENTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We are pleased that sources of highly skilled medical and research jobs and the economic stimulus they provide are located in and near CD6. NYU Langone is building a 14-story science building on East 30th St and First Ave. The Alexandria Center of Life Science, part of East River Science Park, has two operational buildings with a third on the way. It is devoted primarily to biotech facilities and contains 300,000 sq ft of lab and other R&D space. Funding for this project was a public/private arrangement including money from city and state entities, the city's business community, some federal funding, and the developer. We welcome the creation of the Cornell NYC Tech Campus on Roosevelt Island which, while located outside CD6, will have great impact. We are supportive of efforts that, according to Jones Lang LaSalle, have made New York the 5th ranking bioscience cluster in the US (attached).

CB6 has advocated for a strategic plan to determine Bellevue's health care and land use needs prior to disposition of property. No such study has been conveyed to us. We continue to advocate for the renovation and re-purposing of the former Bellevue Psychiatric Building. In 2008, EDC issued an RFP for it, but no selection was made. Our 197-a Plan explicitly calls for scientific, medical, and institutional uses for this building. CB6 stands by the plan and for renovation of the building. It has been considered for landmarking by the state and contains WPA-era murals in need of restoration.

CB6 remains diligent about our waterfront. We work towards a continuous esplanade and bikeway along the East River and look forward to participation in the waterfront resiliency plan (or Big U) as projections of climate change mount. The Blueway Plan which would create access to the waterway itself remains unfunded as a stand-alone item, but we welcome an upcoming ferry stop off East 23rd St and resumption of kayaking near Stuy Cove. The attachment detailing needs for portions of the waterfront reflects our careful work.

Finally, DSNY with EDC proposed that a garage be built at the former Hunter College Brookdale Campus on East 25th St. While CB6 recognizes the principle of locating such facilities in or near the district being served, we have objected to this site as it contradicts our 197-a plan. Strong community opposition to the project persists.

### Priorities

- Construct Continuous Esplanade and Bikeway
- Install an irrigation system at Stuyvesant Cove Park
- Expand programs to support local businesses and entrepreneurs
- Build or expand incubator or affordable work or research lab spaces

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **MOST PRESSING ISSUE**

Traffic: CD6 traffic seems to have worsened. Major bridge, tunnel and highway approaches are jammed; all of our avenues, and some side streets, are clogged. This is likely due to several factors, but we will not know which ones to target unless we get a full-district traffic study. The effects are known: air pollution increases, based on several studies showing CD6 at the highest levels of known car-related pollutants; vehicular noises on our streets are a regular complaint; business productivity is hampered; and pedestrians face dangerous crossings.

### **COMMENTS - TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

Traffic in CD6 is a major concern. We need a traffic study to understand how vehicular flow can improve. With major vehicular transit points like the 59th St Bridge, Midtown Tunnel and FDR on/off ramps, plus sometimes all-day avenue and side street jams, solutions need to be identified to allow better movement for private cars, buses, bikes and pedestrians alike.

CB6 has high hopes for Vision Zero. We are pleased with the initial efforts being made to install accessible crossing signals and continue to request them at problem-corners via DOT's portal. Traffic incidents occur throughout the district but some locations are of greatest concern. Re-engineering has improved the conditions of the intersection at 24th St and Lexington Ave; however, other intersections remain problematic. CB6 has heard from residents about 23rd St and 2nd Ave, 23rd St and 3rd Ave, and the ever-problematic 57th St and 2nd Ave. In addition, the area around 34th St and FDR Dr Service Rd consistently ranks high in collision rates. Engineering attention is key.

To help address pedestrian-vehicle collisions, several measures can be studied. Left turn signals are necessary at several major intersections on Lexington Ave. Additionally, CB6 asks that DOT consider traffic calming measures, such as leading pedestrian intervals, speed bumps, all-red stop phases or other methods to improve safety for pedestrians along some avenue segments.

Pedestrian-bicycle incidents are on the rise. There has been a noticeable increase in bike ridership. CB6 supports bike lanes, though we must recognize that pedestrians can be injured by illegal and unsafe cyclists, such as sidewalk riding, ignoring stop lights, and traveling against traffic. Enforcement is the easiest solution. Cyclists, though, should also benefit. They deal with lanes shared by buses, vehicles, and double parking. Major gaps in the East River Pedestrian Bikeway force cyclists into dangerous traffic conditions. Completion of protected bike lanes along the east side of CD6 is a critical component of DOT strategy.

As for waterways, CB6 anticipates East River Ferry expansion and is pleased by EDC's identification of 23rd St as a prime landing location. We look forward to this maritime complement to our current, congested land-based transportation network.

#### Priorities

- Fund Blueway solution for the pinch point in the Riverfront Esplanade
- Rehabilitate the Cement and Asphalt Medians Along the FDR Drive Service Road
  
- Conduct or release traffic studies
- Add Another Paving Crew
- Install additional lighting in front of PS 116 to provide security

### **COMMENTS - TRANSIT SERVICES**

While we do not have specific budget requests falling under the New York City Transit Authority, CB6 notes its continuing support for a full-length Second Avenue Subway which would relieve the burden on the Lexington Line and provide much-needed relief to the congested bus system along First, Second and Third Avenues. Many on the East Side currently walk over one-half mile to a subway station. Phases 3 and 4 of the project are expected to benefit Manhattan CD6. We eagerly await the completion of this work and ask the city to block any efforts to further delay it.

In light of capital demands on the Metropolitan Transit Authority, we hope the city and the state will cooperate in funding shortfalls in the MTA's capital budget, with particular attention to the Second Avenue Subway line's completion. The economic benefits are apparent: it would secure New York its place as a competitive, world-class business environment, while its construction provides good-paying jobs for New Yorkers (see attached report).

Additionally, CB6 has identified other transit issues that it looks to solve with its transit agency partners: 1) crosstown bus service improvements, particularly on the M34, M34A and M23 lines; 2) completion of an additional entrance for the First Ave station of the L subway line; and 3) increasing efficiencies of bus lanes along First and Second Avenues to decrease clustering and improve travel times.

Finally, we want to ensure the MTA and NYCTA remain vigilant in its oversight of maintenance at stations managed and constructed by private developers. The long-term upkeep of these stations requires continued supervision and their completion should be monitored for unreasonable delays.

#### Priorities

- Expand TLC Enforcement by Adding Additional Inspectors dedicated to CD 6

## **PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **MOST PRESSING ISSUE**

Quality of Parks: Quality of parks and park facilities is selected as the most important issue under this section based on the number of capital priorities Manhattan CB6 has identified as crucial in light of our low open-space inventory. This is not to say their ongoing staffing and maintenance is not as important, since care of our parks would likely prevent them from falling into disrepair, thereby requiring more expensive capital funding.

### **COMMENTS – PARKS AND RECREATION**

CD6 has the least amount of open space (especially parks and playgrounds designated as active use) of any Manhattan district, as shown in attachment. This disproportionate allocation is further exacerbated by its population being at the median of community district size for both Manhattan and all of New York City. Furthermore, recent census data shows a 30% increase in the population of very young children in Manhattan. CD6, therefore, should be a top priority in the development of new, active open space and in the maintenance or upgrades to existing spaces.

We welcome recent increased funding overall for the Parks Department, as well as improvements in some of our existing open space as spearheaded by our Council Members . for example, new parkland along the ConEd site+at 38th St and FDR Dr, completed projects like Asser Levy Playground, or those under way: Trygve Lie Plaza, 54th St Rec Center, and Stuyvesant Square upgrades, and the Asser Levy boiler; however, we continue to stress the need for increased staffing at parks and rec centers and commencement of critical capital projects that have languished for years. As we address these maintenance issues, we seek better security from additional PEP officers and cameras in some locations.

DCP confirms that CD6 has 26 acres of open space and 5000 residents per acre, the highest density in Manhattan. One example of a site ripe for park development is the former Brookdale Campus, currently being considered for a sanitation garage. Many residents and CB6 members would consider it a missed opportunity should the city forego open space on this site. Additionally, a continuous East River esplanade, currently under MOU as the Eastside Greenway and Park project, would add much-needed open space . this must be funded in the spirit of OneNYC.

Finally, preservation of our 77 privately owned public spaces (POPS) are vital due to our low park count. We ask for support from the city to ensure they are compliant and accessible, in light of some recent losses in this area.

## Priorities

- Make enhancements to St. Vartan Park.
- Upgrade playground equipment in McArthur Park
- Replace or Repair stairs that lead up to the pedestrian overpass at Peter Detmold Park
- Build a pedestrian overpass between Murphy's Brother's Playground & Stuyvesant Cove Park
- Reconstruct Ralph J. Bunche Park
- Rehabilitate the Stuyvesant Square Park Comfort Station
- Restore fountains in East River Esplanade Park (Glick Park)
- Restore Lighting in East River Esplanade (Glick Park)
- Replace Windows at Asser Levy Recreation Center as Necessary.
- Repair Fountains in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
  
- Hire Additional Parks Maintenance and Operations Personnel and a District Gardener
- Install At Least One Video Camera in Bellevue South Park.
- Install Video Camera(s) in the Garden Area of Dag Hammarskjold Park
- Increase Funding for Parks Enforcement Patrol

## COMMENTS – CULTURAL AND OTHER

While CD6 does not host famous Broadway theaters, it is home to several off-Broadway stages, some of which provide entertainment in other languages or enable up-and-coming theatrical artists access to an affordable venue. We also host important museums with distinguished collections, like the Morgan Library, Japan Society, as well as the New York Transit Museum at Grand Central. CB6 is always supportive of existing and enhanced supportive programs that allow these smaller theaters and lower-key museums to thrive, through direct grants or via funding to community organizations that utilize them. CB6 also acknowledges that schools and universities in our district, as well as some long-standing art institutes, may benefit directly from cultural funds. We note, however, and will monitor recent decreases in Manhattan's share of cultural development spending, as per the attached analysis, which we assume might affect our district disproportionately as it is not well-known as an artistic focal point.

Additionally, public works of art are seen as a benefit in CD6, and we welcome the continued use of corporate or public plazas to host artistic installations that enhance the cultural program of the area. We also encourage a conversation to identify additional locations for public art in our district.

## **COMMENTS – LIBRARY FACILITIES**

A survey by the Gates Foundation found that one-third of Americans now relies on libraries for computers and Internet access for, among other things, job searches, college applications and health monitoring (see attachment). New York Public Library Director Paul LeClerc testified on June 4, 2010, that one in four people say they have no alternatives to services like those they receive at NYPL. We are enthusiastic about the increased funding for libraries in the most recent budget and that six-day operation is restored, but we are cautiously optimistic as these institutions are usually among the first on the chopping block when budget cuts are sought. Funds should be disbursed quickly for aging library buildings and programming to meet information-age demands for those of all economic strata should be expanded. We also urge that our library branches be fully staffed with qualified professional librarians.

The Grand Central Branch of the NYPL has been a well-appreciated expansion in services available to the previously under-served northern end of CD6, and we are encouraged that Council Member Dan Garodnick and the city will maintain this facility as a permanent neighborhood fixture.

As the attached report shows, capital needs for all city libraries are dire. The Epiphany Library requires replacement of windows and is in need of renovation of its interior spaces in order to meet ADA compliance. Kips Bay Library is in need of a complete renovation including replacement of HVAC, boiler and radiators. Upgrading of interior spaces including ADA compliance, replacement of an elevator and addressing water infiltration in the basement all need to be addressed. CB6 hopes funds allocated in 2016 budget by Council Member Rosie Mendez to Kips Bay will help cover some of these much-needed repairs, but additional monies will likely be required for the full scope of work.

### **Priorities**

- Undertake a Partial Interior Renovation of the Epiphany Branch
- Obtain additional electronic resources for library branches
- Replace elevator at Grand Central Branch
  
- full Service Hours at Kips Bay, Epiphany and Grand Central Libraries and Protect Six-Day Service in FY 2017

## **COMMENTS – COMMUNITY BOARDS**

As we prepare this document, it is clear that data driven analysis of community conditions helps us make the case for our stated needs. Unfortunately, we run into some roadblocks along the way. First, communications between some city

agencies and the board need to be improved. Consultation on district capital projects is required by the NYC Charter but too often the board is informed about decisions without appropriate notice. As a result, CB6 is unable to provide timely information to community-based organizations and loses resident feedback on some of our most important projects.

Second, community boards often do not have ready access to the information needed to conduct analysis. Access to demographic information about our residential population is much improved through the efforts of DCP, DOITT and other city agencies and as a result of the Open Data Law; however, a large data set that is missing is the number of people who enter this district on a daily basis to work, shop, and visit. Central and East Midtown form the commercial hub of Manhattan. The daily influx of workers, as well as tourists and shoppers, also presents strains on transportation, public safety, and infrastructure. We have yet to see adequate measures of how commercial and touristic activity impact services in the area.

Third, in order for Manhattan CB6 to conduct useful analysis, we must have greater access to district-level data in usable form. While there have been significant improvements here as well, the city's community district-level budget-related data can be difficult to navigate. Many agencies provide the data by census district, police precinct, borough, or citywide, all of which are difficult to use when making our conclusions.

Fourth, appropriate funding for the CB6 office is essential to provide the level of analysis and service we require. While 2016 funding was increased nominally, boards must still operate administratively at a bare minimum. Additional funds would allow us to hire a special project coordinator, an important enhancement in our service to the community, especially for youth and senior services. We also support any legislation mandating additional, specialized staff to assist board offices, such as that proposed by Council Member Ben Kallos (see attached).

#### Priorities

- Increase Staff for the Landmarks Preservation Commission
- Provide more community board staff