

EXCERPTS FROM COMMUNITY BOARDS' "STATEMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET" FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Reactions to Agency Responses listed in the FY '16 Register of Community Board Budget Requests are collectively listed under Agency Subheading

Dept. of Youth & Community Development

BRONX 3

Bronx Community Board Three supports efforts by the city administration to appropriate \$43.3 million dollars to maintain summer 2014 service levels at the new minimum wage; nevertheless additional funding has not been appropriated to increase the number of SYEP slots.

Bronx Community Board Three urges the city administration to appropriate sufficient funding to address the need for increased SYEP employment slots (recommendation per Bronx CB 3 FY' 2016 public hearing).

COMPASS Summer Slots – Bronx Community Board Three supports the appropriation of \$17.6 million to maintain summer programming for all elementary after school slots.

Bronx Community board Three supports FY' 2016 funding in the amount of \$166k to support the mayor's Youth Leadership Council.

BRONX 10

1. The Summer Youth Employment Program has been underfunded. Bronx Community Board #10 would like to see it properly funded to serve our youth.

Agency Response: The Agency has worked with the Mayor in funding SYEP through City tax levy funding and private donations to make up the significant loss in Federal funding. Expansion of the program depends on the availability of state and federal funding.

Board Response: This is the same response that we had received in the 2015 Budget Register. As a sponsoring agency for the Summer Youth Employment Program for the past two years, the Board understands the value of providing young people with an introduction to a positive work environment. The Board urges the Agency to seek funding from both governmental and non-governmental sources to adequately fund this vitally needed program.

BROOKLYN 1

Social Services – We urge that funding be increased and not cut for a variety of vital social services upon which various facets of our community depend. For example:

- **Youth and Families** – Day care centers and their capacities should be increased, as well as slots for pre-school education/head-start and slots for voucher programs. Funding should be increased for both summer and after

school programs. We continue to oppose the Small World Day Care Center's closure advocate for its retention at 211 Ainslie Street. We are concerned about any "domino" effect created by the city to close additional centers.

BROOKLYN 9

Out of School Time

The response to Community Board 9's request for an increase in funding for additional Out-of-School Time programs in the district was that "...the Community Board area has significant agency-funded programs ..." However, a review of the 2010 Census' American Community Survey data demonstrates that in 2010 Community District 9 had roughly 7,000 residents in each of the three relevant categories of youth: 5-9, 10-14, and 14-19.

DYCD lists ten out-of-school time programs for this district which includes a Beacon Center designed to provide out-of-school time programming for all school aged youth; four programs for elementary school youth; three programs for junior high school youth; and two programs for high school youth. Even if only half of the youth in the district needed out of school time activities, each program would have to serve approximately 1,000 young people. Clearly, none of these programs have this level of capacity.

Given the considerable growth in the youth population since 2010 and the numerous requests for additional programming that the Board receives from parents, we strongly urge the agency to consider providing additional funding, through the RFP's to be able to reach the large number of youth who are underserved in this district.

BROOKLYN 14

The board supports funding for youth employment programs, especially those focused on tech-industry opportunities. Of the total population ages 16-24 in Community District 14 (10,834), over 8% are disaffected youth – those not in school and without jobs. We applaud the efforts of DYCD to seek additional state and federal funding for programs.

We are encouraged that DYCD has increased funding for out of school time programs.

Community Board 14 has focused a great deal of attention and resources on youth services in our community. This is the eighth consecutive year that CB 14 has organized a Youth Conference. Last year 60 agencies and organizations participated and more than 600 young people attended, demonstrating the need for and interested in youth services in our district. Our board's Youth Services Committee has undertaken the task of inventorying programs and services, surveying the CBOs and civic associations in the district and examining if the capacity of the myriad organizations serving our young people is sufficient to meet identified needs. We believe that the city should dedicate tax-levy funding to off-set cuts experienced by the agency over the years.

We strongly urge the administration to take the necessary steps both to ensure the equitable and proper allocation of funds, and most importantly, to ensure that this agency – like all others – complies with the spirit as well as the letter of the New York City Charter by consulting with Community Boards on budgetary matters.

MANHATTAN 5

305200909E—We are thankful DYCD has increased funding for outreach for runaway teenagers.

305201401E—We are thankful DYCD has increased funding for afterschool programming and child care.

MANHATTAN 6

We were happy to learn of the increased funding for youth services and after-school programs, and seek to get a fair share of them as soon as the additional programs are rolled out by this Department and supporting agencies. The Board would like to point out that a larger Community Board office budget would help us work in tandem with these programs, since the additional funds would allow us to reinstate the position of Youth Coordinator for our District.

E-07: 306199804E – Increase funding for youth services and after school programs (see DOE)

MANHATTAN 7

Tracking Code: 307200901E

Request: Increase funding in order to maintain and increase the number of positions available through the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Agency Response: The agency has worked with the Mayor in funding SYEP through City-tax levy funding and private donations to make up for the significant loss in federal funding. Expansion of the program depends on the availability of state and federal funding.

Reply: CB7 appreciates the effort to restore funding of this vital program. Restorations in the last two fiscal years have brought this important source of outreach and employment back from the brink, but the program is still serving fewer individuals than in fiscal 2007.

The dual benefits of providing teens and young adults with positive formative work experiences as an antidote to violent, unproductive or aggressive behavior, and the stimulus to the economy from paying wages that are all but certain to be spent in the community in which they were earned, eloquently speaks to the appropriateness of this program as a solution.

Cuts in lean years deserve to be restored when even modest rebounds in the health of the economy are felt elsewhere.

Tracking Code: 307199502E

Request: Maintain and increase funding for After-School and OST Programs in public school and in neighborhood CBOs in MCD7.

Agency Response: DYCD has increased funding in this service area.

Reply: CB7 is grateful for DYCD's actions in increasing funding to this important aspect of caring for our children, our families and our neighbors.

MANHATTAN 9

For the same and similar reasons, CB9's Expense Request No. 10, submitted to the Department of Youth & Community Development ("DYCD") specifically requesting funding to facilitate a youth outreach effort to allow children and their immediate family members to participate in job training and placement initiatives, youth programs, internships, health clinics, and various

cultural activities, is co-extensive with Expense Request No. 4 (request for training and job placement for adults) and Expense Request No. 5 (request to retain and expand existing academic and mentoring after-school programs through grade 8 and grades 9 thru 12).

However, CB9 differs with DYCD's claim, in direct response to Expense Request No. 10 for an Outreach Effort for both children and their immediate families, that "[T]his service area is incorporated into existing programs."

In view of the DYCD's response, CB9 respectfully requests that DYCD submit information identifying, among other things, the location of these purportedly "existing programs" within District 9 and information relative to the extent of their efficacy.

Notwithstanding DYCD's claim, District 9 has a dire need for funding youth programs and after school programs, particularly targeted to the needs of the teenage population north of Columbia University in the geographic area between 125th and 155th Streets. This Section of District 9 is uniquely characterized by its low educational attainment rate, low literacy rate, and low rate of English fluency. Additional youth programming and services in this Section of District 9 would yield multiple educational and job training benefits while likely reducing adolescent crime rates and school truancy rates.

As it is Community Board 9's expectation that innovative youth programming, as opposed to traditional public school education, shall have special appeal to this particular segment of the District's youth population, CB9 believes that participation of this population segment in such programming would engender more interest in job-training and skills development, and thereafter ultimately beget greater interest in traditional schooling.

Accordingly, Community Board 9 respectfully requests that Your Honor initiate discourse with City agencies, and DYCD in particular, to guard against the stagnate marginalization of this youth (soon-to-be-adult) population and successive generations of youth in this Section of District 9, by appropriating funds for CB9's requested Youth Outreach Effort so as to provide a comprehensive set of targeted programs for youth and their immediate family members to meaningfully participate in not only youth programs but also job training and placement programs (Expense Request No. 10).

MANHATTAN 10

- **Priority 13 – 310201609E:** Provide field trips abroad.

Explanation: Most of our children do not get to experience the world outside of their immediate community. Even a field trip abroad can broaden their minds and goals.

Agency Response: DYCD is unable to meet this request due to financial constraints.

Community Board Comments: We ask that DYCD look to partner with organizations, who hosts DYCD interns, to fulfill Expense request 13.

- **Priority 14 – 310201608E:** Fund transportation for DYCD program participants while program is in session.

Explanation: Participants are not accommodated with high level pay for DYCD programs. Paying for transportation can be a burden for the participants and deter them from future internships.

Agency Response: DYCD is unable to meet this request due to financial constraints.

Community Board Comments: What has DYCD done to acquire funds for Expense request 14? Has DYCD met with MTA? What is needed and how can the community board(s) help advocate for this need?

- **Priority 23 – 310201309E:** Provide buses to support community generated initiatives to promote youth enrichment and parental involvement.

Explanation: Several community groups organize activities for children but are in need of transportation when the venues are outside the NYC Transit footprint. DTCD funded buses would assist with youth enrichment programming.

Agency Response: DYCD offers free subway passes to youth service organizations for field trips. However, due to a lack of funds, bus services are no longer available.

Community Board Comments: Although Expense request 23 was not directly met we do appreciate that DYCD offers free subway passes for field trips.

QUEENS 5

There is great concern regarding the budget for after school, evening and weekend tutoring, homework assistance and recreation programs for children and teenagers. While we are fortunate to have a Beacon Program established at I.S. 93, Ridgewood, smaller youth programs at other school sites have been cut and even eliminated in the past.

Positive, growth-promoting after school programs for youth and families are integral to the stability of our communities. The budget for these programs must be increased where possible and at least maintained at current levels. There are far too many children unsupervised after school, at night and on weekends, with little direction and few safe havens.

Thankfully, Mayor de Blasio's FY 2015 Budget included a substantial increase in the budget for the Department of Youth and Community Development. If these funds are being spent wisely, quality youth programs should prevent youth delinquency, improve school performance, and pave the way to a brighter future.

We are very concerned regarding a proposed \$80 Million reduction in the DYCD budget for FY 2016, as indicated in the FY 2016 Preliminary Budget.