

**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

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**Economic Development Corp.**

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**BRONX 10**

1. Request: Bronx Community Board #10 is scheduled to have three shopping malls constructed within its environs that offer free parking. The Board would like to see municipal lots constructed above Bruckner Boulevard at both Pelham Bay and Throggs Neck. This would allow the older shopping areas to remain competitive.

Agency Response: Securing funding for this request is outside of EDC's jurisdiction; please contact the Agency if you have any questions regarding the EDC budget process.

Board Response: The Board finds this response to be curious inasmuch as the New York City EDC is responsible for promoting economic growth, stimulating investment, and broadening revenue and employment through the development of real estate, administration and financing tools, oversight of transportation and infrastructure projects. The Agency also promotes Business Districts, conducts feasibility studies and financial analyses, and guides projects through the necessary public approvals. Our Board firmly believes that this project would fall under the jurisdiction of NYC EDC. The Board would like to see this project revisited by the Agency.

2. Request: Model Co-op City for ferry services.

Agency Response: Further study by the Agency of this request is needed. Contact EDC.

Board Response: The agency offered the same response in the 2015 Budget Register. The Board has learned that the Agency is moving forward with plans for ferry service, emanating from Soundview and the current plans do not include Co-op City, Throggs Neck, City Island and Ferry Point, home to many residents who would benefit from such service.

## **BROOKLYN 14**

### **BUSINESS SERVICES/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Proposed funding for revitalization projects received a response that further study is required for the property at 2274-2286 Church Avenue. This was the same response as the prior year and it is hoped that such study will be forthcoming. This site is located in an economically developing part of the District. The current building is dilapidated, boarded up and fenced off and as such is anathema to economic development. The RFP for 851 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street has been out for nearly two years. Incentives must be enhanced in order to attract proposals.

## **MANHATTAN 1**

CB1's number two capital budget priority for FY 2016 was the following:

- Provide funds for the design and construction of short to medium term resiliency infrastructure in anticipation of future extreme weather events.

Given the potential for future weather-related events it is crucial that short and medium-term measures such as storm walls, levees and berms be constructed as soon as possible.

At a height of seven feet, CB1 experienced one of the highest inundation levels in Manhattan and unfortunately two people in CB1 drowned and there was billions of dollars of damage to infrastructure, housing and commercial property and utilities. CB1 is very concerned about the unmet resiliency needs, timeline, implementation and funding for such a proposal for "Compartment C" of the Big U. CB1 strongly urges the City to address unmet needs to fund a comprehensive design, engineering and feasibility study that protects our most vulnerable edges along the waterfront and to make CB1 a top priority in the next round of Federal funding projects. CB1 specifically urges implementation of initiatives outlined in the SIRR report such as Coastal Projection "(A) Install an integrated flood protection system in Lower Manhattan" and "(1) Create an implementation plan and design for an integrated flood protection system for remaining South Manhattan areas" as well as other flood resiliency measures. This is particularly important after Mayor de Blasio releases the NPCC 2015 Report, Providing Climate Projections Through 2100 for the First Time. It has projections for sea level rise in New York City that show an increase between 11 inches and 21 inches by the 2050s, between 18 inches and 39 inches by the 2080s, and between 22 inches and 50 inches by 2100, with a worse case projection of up to six feet by 2100 (02/17/2015).

## **MANHATTAN 6**

The first capital budget priority for Manhattan Community Board Six remains the construction of a continuous esplanade and bikeway, or "Greenway" along the East River. We have advocated for an esplanade along the East River for decades. There has been some commitment to the lower portion of Manhattan but not for the entire East Side.

A Memorandum of Understanding is in place for a portion of the Greenway near the United Nations, and this may facilitate construction, but the EDC is wrong to rely entirely on the real estate transaction contemplated in the MOU as a source for all the necessary funding. The City must make a commitment to build the section of the East River shorefront from East 14<sup>th</sup> Street to East 59<sup>th</sup> Street to meet City Planning's Waterfront Plan.

We have requested an irrigation system to support the trees and plants at Stuyvesant Cove Park for seven years. Once again, we are told that this requires further study. The gardens at this site not only provide much-needed green space in our park-starved District, but also support an award-winning educational effort by a local nonprofit organization. This should garner more serious attention.

C-01: 306199101C – Construct Continuous Esplanade/Greenway

C-06: 306200803C – Install irrigation system at Stuyvesant Cove Park (see also DEP)

C-26: 306201102C – Provide a solution to the “choke point” on the riverfront Esplanade between 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets (see also DOT)

## **QUEENS 7**

Our board continues to support the improvement and development of the Flushing Airport site for soft recreation uses. We do not want to see heavy trucking uses such as manufacturing or a retail component. This item has been in our budget since 1980 – 35 years – and we are not happy with the response from EDC stating that citywide priorities preclude this project at this time.

## **QUEENS 11**

In order to support the business community along Bell Boulevard, once again the Board supports the funding for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the Bell Boulevard Streetscape Improvement Project. The Economic Development Corporation has worked with the Bayside Business Association and the Bayside Village Business Improvement District to finally start Phase I of the project, which is limited in scope. We have been asked to go to our elected officials for funding. The BID has also gone to the local elected officials. We request the support of the Administration.