

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

New York Public Library

BRONX 1

Increase funding in FY16 for New York Public Library services in the district tracking code (101200801E). CB1 request continued Expense and Capital funding for the Mott Haven and Woodstock branch libraries in the district. Both are headed by excellent Branch Managers and supportive staff. Services provided by these two branches of the library system provide a unique learning and educational supportive experience to the district's children and young adults.

BRONX 6

Bronx Community Board #6 is pleased that the New York Public Library supports our request for Capital funds to renovate and repair the Tremont, West Farms and Belmont branch libraries (Tracking Code 106201401C). Although the funding has not yet been secured, we look forward to discussing how the community board may partner with the NYPL to bring its funding needs to the attention of our elected officials.

BRONX 8

In addition, we also have concerns about the continued lack of funding of all capital projects for libraries and parks regardless of priority and without explanation for the continued dismissal of these quality of life concerns.

MANHATTAN 5

The City of New York must increase support for libraries. The libraries in our district serve the diverse range of needs of residents, workers and others who come to our district to use the tremendous resources of the NYPL. Increased funding would expand hours and services offered.

305201401C—We strongly urge the City to commit funds for renovations of the 58th Street Library for ADA access and electrical upgrades.

305200906C—We strongly urge the City to commit funds for system upgrade to provide a boiler and HVAC replacement and system control at the Andrew Heiskell Braille & Talking Book Library.

305200424E—The City must support robust 6-day library service and increase hours, diverse programming, world-class collections and sufficient staff.

MANHATTAN 6

Manhattan Community Board Six continues to believe that our libraries are a vital resource to our community. They provide access for online education and job searches, in addition to books and periodicals to individuals who cannot afford them.

It is imperative that library funding remain sufficient for full service hours, trained staffers and updated facilities. It is disheartening to see the agency's five year expense summary reflect a decrease from 2015 levels. We ask your office and our other elected officials to find sufficient funds to ensure these essential institutions remain relevant and effective.

Just as important as keeping libraries open is keeping their physical plants in good shape. We request that the City allocate funds to much-needed renovations at the Epiphany and Kips Bay branches to bring them into compliance with current codes and statutes and to ensure ADA compliance.

C-23: 306201501C – Partial Renovation of Epiphany Branch

C-24: 306201502C – Full Renovation of Kips Bay Branch

E-03: 306201207E - Restore funds for full service at libraries in the District

MANHATTAN 7

Tracking Code: 307200102C

Request: Renovate the Bloomingdale Branch Library (West 100th Street / Amsterdam and Columbus) -
- \$9.6M

Agency Response: NYPL supports this proposal as requested. However, city funded financial support is necessary to implement this project.

Reply: CB7 appreciates the shared vision that recognizes the needs to be addressed by this budget priority.

It is not clear from the response what city-funded financial support is required for this project, or the nature of the inter-play between the support already committed for the project and that needed to satisfactorily complete it. For example, CB7 worked with the Council Member for Manhattan Valley in previous fiscal years to supplement the construction budget for needs that the renovation plans did not initially include. No such clarity is available on the remaining phases of the project.

An on-going explosion in residential construction in the immediate vicinity of the Bloomingdale branch library is placing increasing demands on this already widely-used facility. It is essential that it be renovated to meet all of the vastly different current needs of its patron population, from pre-schoolers to teens to adults to seniors.

Tracking Code: 307201407C

Request: Renovate the Library for the Performing Arts (on the Lincoln Center campus, West 65 Street and Amsterdam Avenue) -- \$4.415MM

Agency Response: NYPL supports this proposal as requested. However, city funded financial support is necessary to implement this project.

Reply: CB7 appreciates the shared vision that recognizes the needs to be addressed by this budget priority.

It is not clear from the response what city-funded financial support is required for this project. Is the

essence of the response that NYPL lacks any funds to address this need, or that a supplement to existing funds is needed to complete the project?

New York's role as a pre-eminent world capital for culture and the performing arts depends not only on the world-class performing arts companies in residence at Lincoln Center, but on the promise that Lincoln Center provides to the next generation. Ensuring that the Performing Arts Library has the facilities and resources to deliver support to the next generation of performers as well as a ready source for artists in residence at Lincoln Center is an investment whose dividends will be earned through the continued draw of visitors and revenues from around the world for years to come.

Tracking Code: 307200401E

Request: Restore NYPL Staff and Operating Budget - \$19.3MM.

Agency Response: With the support of the Community Boards, the Borough Presidents, the Mayor and the City Council, six day library service was restored in neighborhood libraries. NYPL needs continued support to maintain this level of service and increase hours, materials and central library services.

Reply: While CB7 is delighted to be of use in using the voice of our community to advocate for Council and other funding restorations needed for the most significant core functions performed by modern libraries, a sustainable approach to funding would recognize the essential need to provide reliable and non-negotiable baseline funding appropriate to the needs to be addressed.

Serial cuts and restorations not only expose our branch libraries to the reality of eroded services and staff that seeks more stable employment and hours, they send a message relegating these important services so important to children, teens and the working poor that their needs and programs are not highly valued.

MANHATTAN 9

Since almost half of the District's adult population is not in the labor force and more than one-third (1/3rd) of the District's residents receive either a subsidy or public assistance, the appropriation of funds for the District's Public Libraries cannot be overemphasized. As a socio-economically disadvantaged Community District, CB9 is intent on facilitating the upward mobility of its residents. It is for this reason that Capital Budget Requests intended to directly address the District's unemployment and high school drop-out rates – which are among the highest in the City – must be hastily accommodated. Consequently, CB9 directed specific Capital Budget Requests to the NYPL and, as hereinbefore discussed, the DOE.

As for the NYPL's responses to CB9's Capital Budget Requests, to wit, Nos. 3, 4, 8, and 9, District 9 residents have largely been agreeable to the scope of the proceeding, albeit slow, implementation of the replacement of the lower roof of the George Bruce Library (Capital Request No. 2), the installation of security systems at the Morningside Heights, George Bruce, and Hamilton Grange Libraries (Capital Request No. 8), and the allocation of funds to repoint the rear and east facades of the George Bruce Library (Capital Request No. 9). CB9 is therefore appreciative of the NYPL's recent concessions and implementation of longstanding Capital Budget Requests.

Yet CB9 wishes to underscore the importance of immediately allocating funds to build-out the 600 square foot classroom behind the staff lounge and community room in the Hamilton Grange Library, which necessarily requires the installation of both a new HVAC system and electrical system, the outfitting of a new security system, the installation of safety and fire alarms, and a corridor so as to ensure federal ADA-compliant accessibility (Capital Request No. 3). Equally

important is the allocation of funds for the Hamilton Grange Library to ensure the replacement of its inoperable boiler, the installation of new windows, and a workable HVAC system (Capital Request No. 4).

Likewise, and again co-extensive with CB9's attempt to adequately redress the dearth of educational resources within District 9 (*see* Expense Request Nos. Nos. 4, 5, 10, and 13, respectively), CB9 submitted Expense Request No. 13 to the New York Public Library ("NYPL") for the maintenance of current funding levels to ensure 6-day library service, including increased hours and programming for District 9 youth.

Laudably, as it did with respect to CB9's Capital Requests, the NYPL lobbied (along with community constituencies) and successfully restored 6-day neighborhood library service. Community Board 9 takes special note and appreciates that Your Honor's administration has acknowledged that extended-hour Library service is a cost-effective alternative to ensuring the health and safety of the District's unsupervised youth population, who are compromised by the absence of substantive after-school programs and further handicapped by the fiscal inequity and underfinancing of this District's public schools.

Most respectfully, however, the successful attainment of this pivotal educational objective calls into question the legitimacy of the reasons put forth by the HRA, the DOE, and the DYCD as to why, unlike the NYPL, these Agencies are wholly unable to garner little, if any, educational and job-training related resources for District 9's residents (*see* Expense Request Nos. 4, 5, and 10, respectively, and the subject Agency responses thereto).

MANHATTAN 10

- **Priority 1 – 310200910C:** Acquire Site and New Branch Construction for Macombs Bridge Branch

Explanation: Construct new library: 10,000 - 12,000 sf branch library to replace existing leases facility (1,000 sf). The site acquisition funds were appropriated but were deferred to FY2013.

Agency Response: NYPL supports this proposal as requested. However, City funded financial support is necessary to implement this project.

Community Board Comments: Capital request number 1, which in itself underscores its importance, calls for the provision of funding for a new library facility for the Macomb's Bridge Branch Library. The current facility is six hundred eighty-eight square feet (688 sq. ft.). Under such spatial constraints, the Macomb's Bridge Branch Library is unable to fully serve the surrounding community and most specifically the neighboring schools. It should be noted that the Macomb's Bridge Branch Library is the only library that serves the population north of 145th Street, which encompasses such large residential developments as: Harlem River Houses; Polo Grounds and the Rangel Houses. This has been a top priority for several years and the board strongly asks that the NYPL be more proactive in searching for a library space. Development has grown and continues to grow in Harlem which provides an opportunity for more public

space. We ask that NYPL work with the Department of City Planning (DCP) to identify projects that could provide opportunity for a more appropriate library space for our community residents.

- **Priority 2 – 310201601C:** Security System for Harlem Library Branch

Explanation: Replace existing security system which has exceeded its useful life.

Agency Response: NYPL supports this proposal as requested. However, City funded financial support is necessary to implement this project.

Community Board Comments: We find Capital request number 2 to be self-evident. The security system at the Harlem Library Branch has exceeded its useful life. The lack of security leads to the lack of safety which can create an uncomfortable and even dangerous environment for those who use the library. We ask that the NYPL make this a high priority.

- **Priority 3 – 310201515C:** Countee Cullen Branch Major Renovation

Explanation: Scope of Façade Restoration: Re-point all joints, parapet wall restoration, reset cap/copping stones, install through wall flashing under cap/copping stones, restoration of existing cracks in façade, replacement (stitching) of deteriorated brick, recaulking of expansion joints cleaning of façade. New roof. Replace ADA lift. Renovate all interior spaces, including third floor.

Agency Response: NYPL supports this proposal as requested. However, City funded financial support is necessary to implement this project.

Community Board Comments: We understand that Capital request number 3 consist mostly of aesthetic restorations and/or improvements however, replacing the ADA lift is not one of them. We ask that the NYPL replace the ADA lift so that members of the disabled community can feel welcomed and encouraged to use their community library.

- **Priority 7 – 310201602C:** New Boiler at 115th Street Branch

Explanation: Replace existing boiler which has exceeded its useful life.

Agency Response: NYPL supports this proposal as requested. However, City funded financial support is necessary to implement this project.

Community Board Comments: We find Capital request number 7 to be self-evident. The boiler at the 115th Street Branch has exceeded its useful life and should be replaced.