



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**Delores Rubin**  
Chair

**Jesse R. Bodine**  
District Manager

March 11, 2016

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Statement on the Preliminary Budget, Fiscal Year (FY) 2017**

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

Manhattan Community Board Four (hereafter “MCB4”) is grateful for the opportunity to review your \$82.1 billion Preliminary Budget for FY 2017. Our district, which is made up of Chelsea, Hudson Yards and Clinton/Hell’s Kitchen, has historically been characterized by culturally and economically diverse neighborhoods. An explosion of development in our area has had a ripple effect on our community including:

- Many longtime residents, especially seniors, are being priced out of the neighborhood
- City services are stretched thin as our population growth is not matched by additional resources allocated to city agencies for our district
- The explosion in development has led to more pedestrian and vehicular traffic in our neighborhood with few improvements to vital infrastructure necessary to accommodate the drastic increase, and limited initiatives have been seriously considered to help alleviate the congestion.

Hence our goal in responding to the FY 2017 Preliminary Budget is to highlight key concerns that need to be addressed, which will assist in bringing back the balance to our district and allowing Chelsea and Hell’s Kitchen to maintain the stability and neighborhood character that has made our area such a wonderful place to visit, work and live.

Our stated goal of maintaining the diversity of our neighborhoods can be achieved generally by applying the resources from the FY 2017 budget as it pertains to our district towards:

- Attracting development that makes available more affordable housing that is permanent. MCB4 firmly agrees with your administration’s aim to ensure New Yorkers can still afford to live well integrated in most neighborhoods of our great city. We believe that the establishment of permanently affordable housing across multiple income bands enhances diversity,
- Maintaining the unique character of our neighborhoods by using the existing zoning,
- Preventing displacement and evictions of current residents and businesses, and

- Improving our quality of life with the creation of additional green spaces; schools; educational, community and cultural facility spaces; and creating an appropriate balance in street usage between pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles.

As stated in previous years due to recent rezoning within Community District 4 (CD4), significant new commercial and residential development is now possible in formerly industrial districts. Considering the total population of CD4 has grown from approximately 87,000 in 2000, to over 104,000, according to the 2010 Census, a 19% population growth overall, our district may require a tremendous amount of resources that may not have been anticipated. Development projects are generally evaluated in isolation, not taking into account the accumulative effects. This potentially results in not enough school seats, not enough fire or public safety coverage, more traffic congestion and environmental concerns.

The Community Board has strived for balance between the redevelopment of these areas along with the preservation and expansion of the district's residential neighborhoods. Our priorities continue to include:

- Ensuring that new development helps produce more permanent affordable housing
- Protecting existing stock of affordable units
- Advocating for safety and improved traffic conditions
- Requesting addition open and green space
- Mediating the needs of at risk individuals within our district and the needs of our residents

As our local elected official, we call upon the Mayor's office to consider the amount of resources allocated to the various city agencies in proportion to the districts in need.

In response the Board held a Public Hearing at its March 2nd, 2016 full board meeting. Prior to the Public Hearing, the topic was placed on committee agendas and 2 budget task force meetings were held. Notice of the meetings and hearing were posted. The input received has been incorporated in this response to the Preliminary Budget.

While we appreciate the positive responses to some of our budget requests, Manhattan Community Board 4 firmly believes more funds need to be dedicated to our district.

Thank you for your consideration and we eagerly await your response.

Best regards,



Delores Rubin  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Lowell Kern  
Second Vice Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4

**Enclosure**

cc: Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Helen Rosenthal, City Council  
Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council

**Manhattan Community Board 4  
Statement on the Preliminary Budget, Fiscal Year (FY) 2017  
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## Department for the Aging (DFTA)

Many seniors rely on DFTA for their most basic needs. We appreciate the requests that have been funded (304201721E, 304201724E, 304291725E), however, we are disappointed that several key projects are not being funded.

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### **Request: Other services for homebound older adult programs (Tracking Code: 304201722E).**

Explanation: Expand existing programs for seniors in the following areas: in-home supports; preventive health and social issues.

Agency Response: DFTA continues to advocate for increased funding to support aging services throughout the five boroughs. Presently, there is no additional funding available to increase program budgets or commence new initiatives.

*This issue remains a priority to CB4. The significant issues facing seniors have an outsized impact on the community and its residents. More funding is needed to address the needs of the community's elderly population so that they are properly cared for.*

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### **Request: Enhance home care services (Tracking Code: 304201722E).**

Explanation: Expand existing services for seniors visiting neighbor services.

Agency Response: DFTA continues to advocate for increased funding to support aging services throughout the five boroughs. Presently, there is no additional funding available to increase program budgets or commence new initiatives.

*This issue remains a priority to CB4. The issues facing seniors are vitally important to the community. More funding has to be provided for taking care of those who cannot take care of themselves.*

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## Department of Buildings (DOB):

Enforcement of the building code and zoning resolutions along as well concern for public safety continues to be of high importance to MCB4 due an increased number of illegal hotels and building owners providing the DOB with false information to obtain demolition and alteration permits. MCB4 continues to advocate strongly for a balanced approach to redevelopment of the neighborhoods within MCB4's boundaries and the need for stronger tenant protection plans during construction. MCB4 is pleased that the following divisions\ initiatives are being funded within the FY2017 budget.

Increasing DOB\OSE resources to address the illegal conversion of buildings to illegal hotels (304201732E).

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Expand code enforcement and training towards stricter enforcement of illegal sidewalk storm enclosures that encroach in the pedestrian right of way and including sidewalk storm enclosures in the 311 reporting (304201735E).

*MCB4 looks forward to meeting with DOB later this year to better understand how the increased staff and enforcement will be utilized within the MCB4 boundaries. Notwithstanding these requests, MCB4 believes the resources allocated to DOB in the FY2017 budget for the following requests need to be expanded.*

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**Request: Expand code enforcement (304201733E):**

Explanation: Enhance coordinated enforcement of regulations between HPD and the Department of Buildings in the interests of efficiency. In particular, tracking illegal demos, permitting work without tenant safety plan, and work without lack certificate of non-harassment. Development in all parts of CD4 must be monitored and adherence to previously agreed to standards of contextual zoning maintained.

Agency Response: The agency will accommodate this issue within existing resources. Additional comment: Funding already allocated in the budget for DOB staff increases. New hiring has begun. Enforcement efforts have been stepped up.

**Request: Expand code enforcement (304201734E):**

Explanation: Increase and dedicate Inspectors, Community Coordinators, and Administrative Associates to CD4 Special Districts: HPD and DOB inspectors and those assigned to the Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement (OSE) do essential work in our area. Their work is particularly important within Community District 4s Special Districts, including the Special Clinton, West Chelsea and Hudson Yards Districts, where we depend on their skills to enforce arcane, but essential provisions preventing the demolition of sound residential housing and protecting tenants from harassment. Enhance funding for staffing to pursue with due diligence the collection of outstanding fines owed by repeat violators, and enforce unsafe and after-hours construction compliance is essential.

Agency Response: The agency will accommodate this issue within existing resources. Additional comment: Staffing levels at OSE were recently increased.

*MCB4 appreciates that the FY2017 preliminary budget includes increased funding for additional DOB and OSE staff and that the agencies believes the level of enforcement has been stepped up, however in light of recent discoveries of a number of building sites within the district that have conducted unpermitted demolition (485-497 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue) or been approved for demolition by DOB in which the owners have filed false statements and circumvented the zoning resolution (319-321 West 38 Street and 559 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street) MCB4 strongly advocates that additional resources be provided to DOB, HPD, and OSE to increase the number of interagency code enforcement staff, and assign a project manager to oversee all demolition requests in MCB4's Special Districts.*

## DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS (DCA)

Community District 4 is home to the largest collection of non-profit cultural organizations in New York City. However, many of the small to mid-sized organizations are being priced out of their spaces. Community Board 4 urges the Department of Cultural Affairs to help support these local organizations through the creation of a subsidy program.

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**Request: Support nonprofit cultural organizations (Tracking code: 301204727E).**

Explanation: Preserve and create affordable space for small to mid-sized art groups theatrical and other non-profit performance and visual art organization as well as their support services such as artists' studios, rental storage space for art, costumes, scenery, lighting, and rehearsal studios. The creation of a subsidy program, as part of the overall budget of the Department of Cultural Affairs, that could ensure permanent locations for existing and displaced nonprofit arts entities is an ongoing need and a high priority for this community

Agency Response: The Department of Cultural Affairs recommends this project be brought to the attention of your local elected official, i.e. Borough President or City Council member.

*The response of the Department of Cultural Affairs to this budget request seems to indicate that the Department supports the idea for the proposed program. Community Board 4 urges the Department of Cultural Affairs to join with CB4 to request the needed funding for this project from the City Council.*

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## Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Hudson Yards is finally being built, but much of the infrastructure promised is still lacking. For this program to succeed EDC must now focus on finishing this infrastructure.

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**Request: Study location and Creation of Tour Bus Garage (Tracking Number: 304201728E).**

Explanation: Study the location and construction of a Tour and charter Bus Garage. In the Hudson Yards rezoning in 2005 the city committed the building of a garage to accommodate additional off-street parking sites for tourist and commuter buses and vans, services, and waiting black cars

Agency Response: Additional detail on this request is required before EDC can make a recommendation.

*This request has been on every budget requests since 2005. Now it is more urgent than ever as the city's projection that curbside parking for bus will disappear due to the rezoning have come*

*to pass. EDC has received the details and we expect a vigorous effort in FY 2017 especially as the few possible sites for this parking are slated for development soon.*

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**Request: Other transportation infrastructure requests**

Explanation: Work with MTA to design the West 41st and 10th Ave station for the # 7 train.

Agency Response: Funding for this request is not available in the Transit Authority's current or proposed plan. Contact the MTA and/or your elected officials.

*New residential developments have added over 5,000 commuters and many jitney buses that bring them to the subway stations making traffic even more problematic. As plans for affordable housing are progressing, a new subway station is required for the administration to make good on its commitment to locate affordable housing close to transit. Specifically blocks that will allow access and fan plants for the subway will be redeveloped soon and a design for the station will be required to properly allocate the land.*

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**Request: Other transportation infrastructure requests**

Explanation: Work with MTA dedicate \$2 million to complete the work of the #7 Train Extension Study Group to extend the #7 train to Frank R. Lautenberg Station (FRL Station) in Secaucus.

Agency Response: Funding for this request is not available in the Transit Authority's current or proposed plan. Contact the MTA and/or your elected officials.

*According to the Health Department, levels of PM2.5, the most harmful air pollutant are 11.4 micrograms per cubic meter in Clinton and Chelsea. The district ranks third highest in the city. There is no doubt that the concentration of vehicles and especially buses and trucks idling for hours on our streets are largely responsible. Alleviating this problem by the addition of rail transit is a priority for commuters as well as residents.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE)**

There is a critical need in Community District 4 for upgrades to existing schools and the construction of new elementary and middle schools, to support the growing population of the Community District. Community Board 4 urges the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority to invest in upgrades to existing buildings and the construction of new schools, to accommodate the growing population of our neighborhoods.

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**Request: Capital upgrades to facilities at P.S. 11 – construction of ADA lift and installation of a salt water filtration system for swimming pool (Tracking Code: 304201720C)**

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Explanation: The entrance is not accessible and requires the installing of an ADA lift. Swimming pool is in constant need of repair and requires installation of salt water pool system to provide a safer alternative for pool maintenance than the traditional chlorine chemicals.

*Response: This request includes more than one proposal. Funding for part is recommended.*

*The agency response does not address which of the two requested items for P.S.11 it is recommending. Both portions of this request should be funded. The entrance to P.S. 11 is not accessible. The main entrance is up a flight of stairs and there is no alternative. The school requires the construction of an ADA lift to make the school accessible to parents and students who cannot climb the stairs. P.S.11 has a swimming pool that is used by the school population and the local community. The pool has a traditional chlorine-based maintenance system. A change to a salt water system would make the pool safer and would make the pool available more consistently and will decrease maintenance costs.*

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**Request: Construction of new elementary school (Tracking code: 301204704C).**

Explanation: With schools operating a full or over capacity, we need to identify sites to build new elementary schools - particularly in midtown, where Hudson Yards will bring in an extraordinary number of students, in a short time frame.

Agency Response: Community District is located in a School District with identified capacity need. Location for school will be based on site and funding availability.

*Given both the exponential increase in families with school-age children in the Community District and the additional population increase that will follow the development of residential housing in Hudson Yards, the need for an additional elementary school in Community District 4 is urgent. Identification of a site and the start of construction cannot wait until existing schools are even more over-crowded than they are now. A new elementary school should be constructed now in anticipation of the inevitable population growth. Community Board 4 urges the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority to be proactive, not reactive, in this regard.*

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**Request: Construction of new middle/intermediate school (Tracking code: 301204705C).**

Explanation: With schools operating a full or over capacity, we need to identify sites to build new middle schools - particularly in midtown, where Hudson Yards will bring in an extraordinary number of students, in a short time frame.

Agency Response: Community District is located in a School District with identified capacity need. Location for school will be based on site and funding availability.



*Given both the exponential increase in families with school-age children in the Community District and the additional population increase that will follow the development of residential housing in Hudson Yards, the need for an additional middle/intermediate school in Community District 4 is urgent. Identification of a site and the start of construction cannot wait until existing schools are even more over-crowded than they are now. A new middle/intermediate school should be constructed now in anticipation of the inevitable population growth. Community Board 4 urges the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority to be proactive, not reactive, in this regard.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP)**

Given the number of bars and restaurants in Community District 4, noise pollution is a grave concern to Community Board 4, which is particularly sensitive to the needs of the residents of the District to maintain the quiet enjoyment of their homes.

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### **Request: Enhance or expand noise pollution abatement and enforcement programs (Tracking code: 301201739E).**

Explanation: Enhance or expand noise pollution abatement and enforcement programs: Additional resources are needed for night inspections when the noise pollution is most acute and invasive. Continue diligence is needed for inspecting HVAC systems, nightclubs, and other sources of commercial noise. Code needs to include the consideration of the human voice at full cry — shouting, yelling, and braying.

Agency Response: As of February 2016, DEP will have 56 Air & Noise inspectors, including Senior inspectors & Supervisors who respond to complaints citywide M-F 8am-4pm. Night Unit M-F 6pm-2am. Late Night Unit, Tues.-Sat. 8pm-4am mostly to address music and private carting. Rotating staff for weekend, usually Sat.-Sun. 8am-4pm. Saturday night is primarily for appointments to address music complaints. In an effort to enhance air & noise codes, compliance & enforcement capability, 5 new inspectors will provide more flexibility to inspect on weekends, evenings and increase the number of inspections citywide.

*The response of the Department of Environmental Protection seems to indicate that it is acknowledging the need for increased vigilance when it comes to noise pollution. The Department is urged to allocate sufficient numbers of its new resources to Community District 4, to address the pervasive need in this community for such policing and enforcement.*

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### **Request: Other sewer maintenance requests (Tracking code: 301201740E).**

Explanation: Although MCB4 lauds DEP's NYC Green Infrastructure Program we ask that DEP and agency partners, including the Federal government design, construct and maintain a variety of sustainable green infrastructure practices within MCD4. A portion of the FY 2016 budget should be earmarked to conduct a feasibility study of measures that can limit the damage of storm surges including flood gates. It has been estimated that

the cost to design and construct flood gates at Verrazano Narrows, Arthur Kill and Throgs Neck is approximately \$10 billion.

Agency Response: DEP is not responsible for building a storm surge barrier of this type. The scale and scope of such a request needs 100's of millions of dollars and requires Army Corps of Engineers approval.

*DEP is not being requested to build the storm surge barrier within the FY17 budget. All that is being requested is that DEP commission a feasibility study of measures that can limit the damage of storm surges, including flood gates, and the cost of such measures. Such a study would be just the first step in protecting New York City from the ravages of another superstorm. The DEP needs to understand what measures can be taken, and at what cost, before any planning regarding storm surge protection can be discussed.*

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**Request: Address air quality issues (Tracking code: 301201741E).**

Explanation: Conduct air pollution studies: Provide Funding to conduct air pollution studies in the Lincoln Tunnel Corridor. Given the proximity of the Chelsea and Clinton/Hell's Kitchen neighborhoods to the Lincoln Tunnel and to the Port Authority Bus Terminal, MCD4 most likely is at particular risk from unhealthy air. According to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, this community suffers the second highest incidents of chronic lung disease of any community in Manhattan south of Harlem.

Agency Response: DOHMH partners with Queens College to conduct the New York City Community Air Survey (NYCCAS), which measures air pollution at roughly 150 locations in New York City. This program studies how pollutants from traffic, buildings boilers and furnaces, and other sources impact air quality. NYCCAS monitors pollutants that cause health problems such as fine particles, nitrogen oxides, elemental carbon (a marker for diesel exhaust particles), sulfur oxide and ozone. This effort helps the City improve air quality policies and enforcement.

*The area around the Lincoln Tunnel and the Port Authority Bus Terminal must be made a focus of these studies. Enforcement must be increased in this area.*

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**Request: Provide new or expand green infrastructure, e.g. greenbelts, bio swales (Tracking code: 301201719C).**

Explanation: Expand permeable surface and sidewalk bio swale pilot program to include MCD4: The New York City Council passed a bill in 2014 to begin a pilot program of using permeable sidewalk surfaces to reduce runoff from entering our combined sewage system. MCB4 would like to extend that pilot program to our district, which includes High Risk Flood Zones in some of our neighborhoods. In addition to this measure sidewalk swales used in other parts of the city should be installed within our district. The pedestrian islands that were installed to accommodate the separated bike lines along

Eighth, and Nine Avenues would be optimal locations for sidewalk swales. Notably all new parks should minimize run offs.

*Agency Response: This request cannot be funded in FY 2017. Resubmit for consideration in FY 2018.*

*As large portions of Community District 4 are in High Risk Flood Zones, runoff is a potentially major issue in the District. Community District 4 should be included in the pilot program.*

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## **New York City Fire Department (FDNY)**

*The total population of CD4 has grown from approximately 87,000 in 2000 to over 104,000 according to the 2010 Census. This represents a 19% growth overall, much of it concentrated in the rezoned areas and a faster growth rate than most parts of New York City. This growth may require additional services from many agencies including FDNY. {\*\*\* please insert fire stats\*\*\*} It is essential that safety and prevention initiatives are increased to reverse this trend and an appropriate evaluation is conducted to determine the need for additional firehouses or EMS coverage.*

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### **Request: Expand funding for fire prevention and safety initiatives (Tracking Code: 304201717E).**

Explanation: Expand FDNY program funding to partner with non-profit housing and social services orgs to provide additional smoke detectors and education to their clients in need and make sure they all have detectors and know their rights.

Agency Response: The FDNY Foundation provides funds to assist the Department in meeting needs.

We certainly would like FDNY to endorse this goal of MCD4. Your response is a neutral passive answer stating that money for these activities comes from the independent FDNY Foundation and essentially the Department has no control over the matter. We find it difficult to accept that there is no communication between the Department and the Foundation with FDNY perhaps submitting unfunded needs to the FDNYF for funding. Please reconsider your response.

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### **Capital Request: Rehabilitate or renovate existing fire houses or EMS stations (Tracking Code: 304201708C).**

Explanation: Accelerate the implementation of Shore power Alternative Energy Pilot Program at the Temporary 23<sup>rd</sup> Street EMS station (FDNY). This program

would eliminate the noxious diesel fumes emanating from the idling emergency vehicles. These fumes are a major health concern for the residents of adjacent units.

Agency Response: Repairs and upgrades to facilities must be scheduled carefully so overall (and local/neighborhood) emergency response operations are not negatively impacted. Additionally, these requests must be prioritized so more critical issues (e.g., health and safety or operational response issues) are addressed first. We repair all facilities as resources and priorities allow.

*MCB4 is on record expressing the concerns of residents in the neighborhood with the temporary location of the EMS station on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. This is not a new request and FDNY has had ample time to procure a new permanent location.*

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**Capital Request: Provide new facilities such as a firehouse or EMS station (Tracking Code: 304201709C)**

Explanation: Permanently relocate the West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street #7 EMS station (FDNY) to a new facility MCB4 specifically requests immediate funding for relocation of the EMS station that is temporarily located on W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Tenth Avenue. The current temporary location was never designed for the heavy use the EMS is placing in this site. The current small, cramped location adjacent to residential buildings has resulted in noise and exhaust pollution. The site is unsafe for both FDNY personnel and nearby residents and pedestrians.

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

*MCB4 is on record expressing the concerns of residents in the neighborhood with the temporary location of the EMS station on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. This is not a new request and FDNY has had ample time to procure a new permanent location.*

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

We are very disappointed that none of our requests have been funded. The well-being of our residents is of paramount concern. These requests are extremely important to CB4 and we look forward to increasing DOHMH's services to those in our neighborhood.

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**Request: Expand street outreach (Tracking Code: 304201719E).**

Explanation: Expand resources for homeless youth.

Agency Response: DOHMH funds a variety of services related to mental health, alcohol, drug abuse, and depression. We will review and assess the request for additional programming, which would be contingent upon available resources.

*This issue remains a priority in CB4. The growing population of homeless youth presents a disturbing trend for the city and goes to the heart of the effort to greatly reduce the number of homeless people. At risk youth require special attention and programming that will enable them to secure employment and housing.*

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**Request: Expand program (Tracking Code: 304201736E).**

Explanation: The Board is concerned about reports that the use of crystal methamphetamine and K2 is gaining a foothold in our community. In addition to other health and mental health dangers, use of this drug has been associated with increased use of other illicit drugs, as well as sexual practices that enhance the chances of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Agency Response: DOHMH funds a variety of services related to mental health, alcohol, drug abuse, and depression. We will review and assess the request for additional programming, which would be contingent upon available resources.

*This issue remains a priority in CB4. This request deals with the health of not just those who are at risk of drug use but everyone in the community. The dangers of increased drug use are well known and its repercussions are felt by every person. More attention needs to be paid in order to prevent further community issues.*

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**Department of Homeless Services (DHS)**

Homelessness has been increasing over the past few years. Large public facilities located within our district, such as the Port Authority Bus Terminal (where recent issues of human trafficking have arisen) are also a natural gathering place for people without homes. Many homeless people need social services, in particular drug treatment and/or mental health services. The presence of very large homeless shelters (BRC) and drug rehabilitation centers had also brought major stress to the community. Location and size will be important to consider in future new centers. During a time where homelessness concerns are front and center for the de Blasio administration, MCB4 is disappointed the response to our requests were not very detailed. We welcome the opportunity to discuss in more detail the following:

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**Request: Other facilities for the homeless requests (Tracking Code: 304201718E).**

Explanation: Continue to provide funding for DHS Peace officers to address Bowery Residents Committee (BRC) 127 West 25th Street (BRC) Community Advisory Committee issues.

Agency Response: The agency will accommodate the issue within existing resources.

*It has been well documented this facility has security problems that require a continued focus.*

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**Request: Expand street outreach (Tracking Code: 304201718E).**

Explanation: Expand resources for homeless youth

Agency Response: DHS funds street outreach services in all five boroughs. In addition to services available through DHS, DYCD also funds programs focused on runaway and homeless youth. To learn more about these services, please contact DHS or DYCD.

*MCB4 is aware of the service currently offered, but would like to see these services expanded to match the continuing need.*

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**Capital Request: Upgrade existing facilities for the homeless (Tracking Code: 304201711C).**

Explanation: Complete and green the BRC roof so residents can use that area for socialization rather than gathering on 25th street. Projected cost \$250,000. Build additional shelter facilities to allow for the downsizing of the West 25th Street BRC site so as to alleviate community conflicts.

Agency Response: The request includes several proposals. Please contact DHS to discuss and to obtain details on how the agency is addressing these issues in your district.

*MCB4 recognizes that multiple concerns were addressed in this request. We welcome an opportunity to schedule a meeting to discuss the request for multiple projects.*

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## Housing and Preservation Development (HPD)

Affordable housing is the lynchpin holding together the fabric of our community. We appreciate the request that has been funded (304201730E), however, we are disappointed that several key projects are not being funded.

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**Request: Provide or enhance rental subsidies program  
(Tracking Code: 304201713C).**

Explanation: Provide affordable housing subsidy for Covenant House\Hunter College Site RFP to maximize affordable housing. This Large Scale Development plan will accommodate a modern facility for Covenant House, at least 60 % of permanently affordable units at various level of AMI beyond 60%, 100 units of at risks youth housing, the preservation and building of the Hell's Kitchen library and green open space, while preserving space for the infrastructure needed to build out the #7 subway station at 41st street and 10th Avenue. Height will be limited to 45 stories on the Avenue and 20 stories on the streets.

Agency Response: The agency will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources. Additional comment: While HPD supports moving forward with this project, decisions about use of subsidy will not be finalized until RFP process is complete.

*We are happy to hear that HPD agrees with CB4 on this critical issue. Affordable housing subsidies are significant to maintain the neighborhood charm that makes CB4 so special. We look forward to a continuous and fruitful dialogue on this issue.*

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**Request: Provide or enhance rental subsidies programs  
(Tracking Code: 304201714C).**

Explanation: Provide affordable housing subsidy for Slaughterhouse Site RFP located at 495 11th Ave. This 100% permanently affordable development will satisfy two commitments made by the City in the rezoning for affordable apartments to be built on Site M, and on the 20th street sanitation parking space. It will be affordable at 80 to 165% of AMI. The project will have a height of 45stories, no hotel and an affordable supermarket it will fill many of our community needs.

Agency Response: The agency will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources. While HPD supports moving forward with this project, decisions about use of subsidy will not be finalized until RFP process is complete.

*We are happy to hear that HPD agrees with CB4 on this critical issue. Affordable housing subsidies prevent long-term residents from being priced out of the neighborhood. We look forward to a continuous and fruitful dialogue on this issue.*

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**Request: Provide or enhance rental subsidies programs  
(Tracking Code: 304201716C).**

Explanation: Re-issue RFP and provide adequate capital Subsidy for NYCHA Harborview Terrace site located at West 55 Street and 10th Avenue.

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

*We look forward to working with HPD to ensure the needs of the community are adequately addressed.*

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**Request: Provide more housing for medium income households  
(Tracking Code: 304201717C).**

Explanation: In the Clinton Urban Renewal Area (CURA) in Hell's Kitchen, the few remaining city-owned properties to be developed should maximize the number of medium income units dedicated to affordable housing. Initiate RFPs for the offsite affordable housing developments committed to the Western Rail Yards points of Agreements.

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

*This request serves to further CURA's mission and enhance its effectiveness. Maximizing affordable housing dedicated to medium income individuals and families has a clear positive impact and should be a priority. We look forward to working with HPD so that the community's needs are given the requisite resources.*

**Request: Expand Tenant Protection Programs (Tracking Code: 304201729E).**

Explanation: Enhance funding for legal services and Emergency Repair programs to provide eviction prevention services for low and moderate income households enforcement of regulations, respond to reports of illegal use, and protect tenants from harassment, anti-displacement. Increase funding to HPD budget for enforcement of regulations to protect tenants from harassment. Raise funding levels for anti-displacement and housing improvement programs, such as the Community Consultant Program.

Agency Response: HPD has no funding in this program. The City Council only funds this program. HPD's role is limited solely to administering the contract, and therefore has no control over fund restoration.

*We will make sure our elected officials discuss this allocation during budget hearings.*

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## **New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)**

With a citywide affordable housing crisis and crumbling public housing, investing in and modernizing our district's public housing is crucial.

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### **Request: Renovate or upgrade public housing developments (Tracking Code: 304201735C).**

Explanation: Invest in capital improvements for Fulton and Harborview Terrace developments such as new security fencing, sump pits, replacement lighting and new trash compactors

Agency Response: In order to fund this initiative contact local elected officials for appropriations.

*The Mayor is our local elected official and on behalf of the residents of the Fulton Houses and Harborview Terrace we are requesting NYCHA commit to these necessary capital improvements within their existing budget.*

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### **Request: Provide or enhance rental subsidies programs (Tracking Code: 304201716C).**

Explanation: Re-issue RFP and provide adequate capital Subsidy for NYCHA Harborview Terrace site located at West 55 Street and 10th Avenue.

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

*It is disheartening and confusing to hear that NYCHA believes additional study is needed in order to re-issue the RFP for housing on the Harborview Terrace site at W 55<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Given the dire need for affordable housing and the need for capital investment in NYCHA properties, CB4 urges NYHCA to reissue the RFP with additional capital subsidies in order to ensure the housing is 100% affordable.*

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### **Request: Install security cameras or make other safety upgrades (Tracking Code: 304201736C)**

Explanation: Install security cameras on the roof of all Fulton Houses buildings

Agency Response: In order to fund this initiative contact local elected officials for appropriations.

*The Mayor is our local elected official and on behalf of the residents of the Fulton Houses and Harborview Terrace we are requesting NYCHA commit to these necessary capital improvements within their existing budget.*

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## **NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY (NYPL)**

There is an urgent need in Community District 4 for upgrades to existing libraries and the construction of new libraries, to support the growing population of the Community District. Community Board 4 urges the New York Public Library to invest in upgrades to existing buildings and the construction of new libraries, to accommodate the growing population of our neighborhoods.

**Request: Construction of new library/upgrade of existing facilities  
(Tracking code: 301204701C).**

Explanation: CB4 recommends adding libraries in proportion to the residential development in our neighborhoods. Such as building the Library on West 40 Street between 9th and 10th Avenues.

Agency Response: Additional information is required for NYPL to fully evaluate this request.

*Given both the population increase that has already occurred in the Community District and the growth in the number of residents that will follow the development of residential housing in Hudson Yards, the need for the renovation of existing libraries and/or the construction of new libraries in the Community District is urgent. A new library should be constructed now in anticipation of the inevitable population growth. Community Board 4 would welcome the opportunity to discuss this need further with the appropriate personnel of the New York Public Library.*

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**Request: Provide more or better equipment to a library  
(Tracking code: 301204702C).**

Explanation: Continue funding: Muhlenberg Branch for existing project of the HVAC Replacement (ID# LRCA14MBG).

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

*Community Board 4 applauds the New York Public Library for supporting the continuation of funding for an overhaul of the existing HVAC system at the Muhlenberg branch of the library. Community Board 4 urges the NYPL to join with CB4 to request the urgently needed funding to complete this project from the City Council.*

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## **Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)**

With a district in full expansion it is critical that our mass transit system keeps up with the demand.

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**Request: Other transportation infrastructure requests**

Explanation: Work with MTA to design the West 41st and 10th Ave station for the # 7 train.

Agency Response: Funding for this request is not available in the Transit Authority's current or proposed plan. Contact the MTA and/or your elected officials.

*New residential developments have added over 5,000 commuters and many jitney buses that bring them to the subway stations making traffic even more problematic. As plans for affordable housing are progressing, a new subway station is required for the administration to make good on its commitment to locate affordable housing close to transit. Specifically blocks that will allow access and fan plants for the subway will be redeveloped soon and a design for the station will be required to properly allocate the land.*

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**Request: Other transportation infrastructure requests**

Explanation: dedicate \$2 million to complete the work of the #7 Train Extension Study Group to extend the #7 train to Frank R. Lautenberg Station (FRL Station) in Secaucus.

Agency Response: Funding for this request is not available in the Transit Authority's current or proposed plan. Contact the MTA and/or your elected officials.

*According to the Health Department, levels of PM2.5, the most harmful air pollutant are 11.4 micrograms per cubic meter in Clinton and Chelsea. The district ranks third highest in the city. There is no doubt that the concentration of vehicles and especially buses and trucks idling for hours on our streets are largely responsible. Alleviating this problem by the addition of rail transit is a priority for commuters as well as residents.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (DPR)**

Community Board 4 thanks the Department of Parks and Recreation for its attention to a number of issues affecting our district, including increased maintenance of street trees and increased maintenance at Matthew Palmer Park and Clement Clarke Moore Park. However, there is much more to be done to upgrade and maintain the few parks that are in our neighborhoods.

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**Request: Other park maintenance and safety requests  
(Tracking code: 301201749E).**

Explanation: DPR vehicle: Our District is in need of DPR vehicles including a van for the transportation of seasonal employees and a smaller vehicle for transport of gardening materials including plantings, soil and tools.

Agency Response: Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member. Additional comment: We could use a van, a crew cab pick-up truck and a plow truck.

*The response of the Department of Parks and Recreation makes clear the validity of the request of Community Board 4, in that DPR needs more vehicles than requested in order to provide adequate services to our local parks. Given the need for these vehicles, these requests should be made a priority of DPR.*

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**Request: Other park maintenance and safety requests  
(Tracking code: 301201750E).**

Explanation: Fund full-time, on-site park keeper in each park in our district to address constituents' concerns, provide security and perform routine maintenance of that park alone.

Agency Response: Recommends funding but availability of funds is uncertain.

*The response of the Department of Parks and Recreation makes clear the validity of the request of Community Board 4, in that DPR needs more personnel stationed in our local parks in order to provide adequate services to our local parks. These requests should be made a priority of DPR.*

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**Request: Other street trees and forestry services requests  
(Tracking code: 301201758E).**

Explanation: Tree guards for dangerous tree pits: A number of tree pits have been identified as dangerous for pedestrians and for low vision individuals in particular. More tree guards should be used to resolve this problem, which presents a real danger to low-vision pedestrians.

Agency Response: DPR funds are insufficient for this request. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

*The response of the Department of Parks and Recreation makes clear the validity of the request of Community Board 4, in that there are a number of tree pits that are dangerous to pedestrians, particularly low-vision pedestrians. These requests should be made a priority of DPR.*

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**Request: Other park maintenance and safety requests  
(Tracking code: 301201757E).**

Explanation: Expand fund support Green Thumb Community Gardens

Agency Response: DPR funds are insufficient for this request. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

*The response of the Department of Parks and Recreation makes clear the validity of the request of Community Board 4, in that local community gardens are a boon to all residents of New York City. These requests should be made a priority of DPR.*

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**Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or playground  
(Tracking code: 301201733C).**

Explanation: Dewitt Clinton Park does not live up to its full potential. The Play areas, restrooms, the steps at the western end of the park, and seating areas are all in need of renovation. We have begun to see the implementation of lovely plantings in some parts of the park, but a more robust horticultural plan will help enliven this park. Rats have been a problem at Dewitt Clinton and MCB4 would like better measures to be put in place to deal with this issue.

Agency Response: DPR funds are insufficient for this request. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

*Dewitt Clinton Park is the largest DPR park in the Clinton area. Although some upgrades have been made to the park in terms of plantings, the park as a whole needs upgrades, including play areas, restrooms, stairs and seating areas.*

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## **Department of City Planning (DCP)**

Commitments remain unfulfilled in a rapidly changing district Years after the 2005 re zonings of Hudson Yards in 2005 and the Western Rail yards in 2009. Construction is in full swing but a number of items that were agreed to by the Administration and the City Council await completion. They need the commitment of financial resources from both the expense and capital budgets to support staff and implementation from the Department of City Planning (DCP), Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and other relevant agencies.

MCB4 is grateful that a number of requests are either already funded and/or will be in scope for work within our district and DCP is willing to work with our community board to clarify these requests and/or receive additional input.

These requests are:

304201703E – Complete the zoning text amendment to create a Hudson River Park development rights transfer district

304201706E – Modify the special permit process for off-street parking in new residential buildings

304201707E- Conduct a study of publicly accessible Community Facilities.

However, the following projects that are not being funded remain critical to the wellbeing of our community:

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**Request: Study land use and zoning to better match current use or future neighborhood needs. (Tracking Code: 304201704E)**

Explanation: Explore rezoning the northern part of Hudson Yards to complete the planned park and allow for additional residential units. A rezoning of Hudson Yards North is needed to provide a mechanism to fund the construction of the planned Hudson Yards Blvd. Park, and to reflect the realities of the market which favors residential development over commercial development.

Agency Response: Further study by the agency of this request is needed.  
Additional comment: Please provide information about the specific areas in your district that warrant zoning changes and what land use objectives these changes should be. Please contact the Manhattan Borough President to discuss this matter.

*Manhattan Community District 4 ranks last out of Manhattan's 12 community boards when it comes to residential access within ¼ mile of a park and open space as a percent of total district square. Our neighborhood has added 20,000 residents in the last 10 years and the creation of parks has put us even further back in access to parks. In a growing neighborhood, it is critical that the city Integrate Parks Planning into Neighborhood, Citywide and Resiliency Planning. We would like to see DCP proactively participate in this process.*

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**Request: Other zoning and land use requests (Tracking Code: 304201705E).**

Explanation: Revise the CEQR manual to correctly calculate the need for school seats resulting from cumulative rezoning. With an additional 20,000 residents and further developments under way, our capacity to deliver a proper education to our students is woefully inadequate. Revise Chapter 6 of the City Environmental Quality Review, which grossly and unfairly under counts needed school seats in our community. The problem is worst in Manhattan; as each residential “unit” is calculated to yield three times more 4-17 year olds in the Bronx [.74] than in Manhattan [.22]. Calculations must be based on the most recently available data to update the borough formulas.

Agency Response: Changes to the CEQR Manual are not within DCP's purview. Please contact the Mayor's office for Environmental Coordination.

*MCB4 appreciates that CEQR is not currently in DCP's purview, but expertise of DCP could be extremely helpful in the aim to achieve meaningful improvements to these guidelines.*

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**Request: Study land use and zoning to better match current use or future neighborhood needs (Tracking Code: 304201708E).**

Request: Study land use and zoning to better match current use or future neighborhood needs.

Explanation: Study the extension of the Special West Chelsea District (SWCD) to adjacent areas. It is now time, nine years after the creation of the SWCD, for the City to follow through with the promises it made including those listed then as "Points of Agreement." Also it is important that the City examine the unforeseen problems, which have emerged as development rises in the SWCD creating pressures on adjacent areas like West 14th Street that might necessitate new zonings or the expansion of the SWCD itself.

Agency Response: The agency will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources.

*The multiple studies requested with our District require further discussion. We would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the requests and clarify why they are necessary.*

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**New York Police Department (NYPD)**

The growth of our district with a massive influx of residents is stretching our police force to the limit. We are pleased that some of our requests will be handled within budget: 304201713E - officer training on enforcement of gridlock, idling, bus permits and 10-190 law, and 304201715E - officer training on noise measurement.

However there are many more critical needs to be addressed in this budget:

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**Request: Assign additional staff to address specific crimes (Tracking Code: 304201711E).**

Explanation: Increase enforcement staff for idling laws: work with DEP to conduct repeated and targeted operations in areas identified by our communities. The hundreds of buses idling in our community warrant a much level higher of enforcement.

Agency Response: Additional NYPD resources for this project are unavailable at this time due to funding constraints. However, the program will continue to operate within current funding levels.

*According to the Health Department, levels of PM2.5, the most harmful air pollutant are 11.4 micrograms per cubic meter in Clinton and Chelsea. The district ranks third highest in the city. This is an important and preventable health condition. We look forward to work with the traffic police to ensure the agents are educated in the content of the law and do regularly enforce idling especially in the areas around the Bus terminal and the Lincoln Tunnel.*

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**Request: Assign additional traffic enforcement officers  
(Tracking Code: 304201711E).**

Explanation: Expand funding to add 10 traffic officers (enforcement and traffic) to the district The top areas of complaints are: vehicular failure to yield to pedestrians, - vehicular spillback, - illegal bus parking/standing, especially tourist buses on the west side, from 30th Street to 57th Street. - bus drivers using unauthorized routes, - vehicular idling, - bicycles riding on sidewalks, going the wrong way bike paths and streets, and running red lights. - Illegal electric bikes- vehicles blocking bike lanes - unnecessary honking, - liquor license stipulations- tagging of food delivery bikes

Agency Response: The future funding for civilian personnel depends on decisions made in the Preliminary and Executive budget process.

*MCB4 will make sure our elected officials discuss this allocation during budget hearings.*

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**Request: Assign additional crossing guards (Tracking Code: 304201714E).**

Explanation: Add two crossing guards 10th Avenue and 43rd, 44th; 45th Streets and 10th and 11th Avenues where the Beacon School is moving to with 1,500 additional students.

Agency Response: NYPD's funding is currently available to maintain School-Crossing Guards. There is no funding to support increased staffing levels. The availability of future funding depends on decisions made in the Preliminary and Executive Budget process.

*MCB4 will make sure our elected officials discuss this allocation during budget hearings.*

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**Request: Other NYPD facilities and equipment requests  
(Tracking Code: 304201706C).**



Explanation: Relocate the Tow Pound from Pier 76: The Hudson River Park Act calls for the City to use its best efforts to find a new location for the existing tow pound so that Pier 76 can be developed as 50% parkland and 50% compatible commercial use. We urge the City to consider alternatives as soon as possible so that Pier 76 can take its rightful place as part of Hudson River Park.

Agency Response: After extensive search by NYPD, no site is available.

*MCB4 understands that the City of New York has agreed in writing it will vacate the site. Fortunately a new site is not needed: other cities operate distributed tow pounds thru agreements with parking garages. The tow trucks deliver the cars to the closest commercial parking garage and the attendant collects the fees as well as the parking cost. We are asking that you initiate a Request for Information with various vendors to start the process.*

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**Request: Provide a new NYPD facility, such as a new precinct house or sub-precinct (Tracking Code: 304201707C).**

Explanation: Provide a new NYPD facility and precinct district for CD4: It is time to regroup all of MCB4 within a single precinct that incorporate all the new areas in development for commercial and residential use. These combined with the exponential influx of residents, commuters and businesses in and around Hudson Yards calls for the creation of a new precinct and a redistribution of territory. We request the remapping of our district from 4 precincts to 1 or at most 2 precincts

Agency Response: This is not recommended for funding because it is not an efficient use of resources to open a new police precinct or substation. To establish an additional precinct requires splitting personnel resources (including additional administrative positions) between the existing precinct and the new precinct. Consequently, the net effect may result in a reduction of officers available for patrol in the precinct because the new facility would require adequate administrative and support staff.

*The massive growth of our district requires a significant influx of resources with a residential focus.*

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## **Department of Sanitation (DSNY)**

Cleanliness continues to be of high importance to Community District 4. With an influx of tourists, new residential and commercial developments, and a lively restaurant sector Community District 4 has many growing needs. We are thankful for DSNY's hard work and are grateful to hear that DSNY is expanding NYC's organic collection program as part of their ten-year plan (304201746E). We look forward to hearing from DSNY on specific timing for expansion into Community District 4 and hope that it is within the next year or two. However, the following projects are not funded and remain critical to the quality of life and safety of our community.

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**Request: Provide more frequent litter basket collection**

**(Tracking Code: 304201743E).**

Explanation: This situation has worsened since last year and needs immediate attention. Include two additional pickup trucks bringing the total amount of trucks for MCD4 to four. And add larger trashcans

Agency Response: Although the Department of Sanitation supports this program, due to fiscal constraints the availability of funds is uncertain

*Community Board 4 requests that DSNY makes this a priority in determining the allocation of funds. The litter baskets in our district along 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> avenues are constantly overflowing. Community District 4 requires litter baskets with larger capacity and basket pickup multiple times per day.*

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**Request: Increase enforcement of illegal dumping laws  
(Tracking Code: 304201744E).**

Explanation: Dedicate a sanitation enforcement officer to CD4 to enforce increase in illegal dumping and sidewalk obstructions: The Board is concerned about illegal household dumping, commercial garbage on the sidewalks, the accumulation of construction debris, and an increase in sidewalk obstructions in the district. One additional Sanitation Police Officer should be assigned solely to and stationed in our District. Many infractions occur after 5 PM and a presence in our district is key to affect timely visits. In addition, the Department of Sanitation (DOS) needs to do more to educate individuals and businesses about sanitation regulations.

Agency Response: Although the Department of Sanitation supports this program, due to fiscal constraints the availability of funds is uncertain.

*Community Board 4 requests that DSNY makes this a priority in determining the allocation of funds. The growth within our district requires additional funding and without additional enforcement the illegal activity will only grow.*

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**Request: Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers  
(Tracking Code: 304201745E).**

Explanation: Provide more on street trash cans for recycling.

Agency Response: This request is not recommended for funding.

*Community District 4 is in dire need of additional litter baskets. As our district continues to grow we must accommodate the influx of residents, tourists, and commercial visitors. Community Board 4 is confused as to why DSNY does not support additional litter baskets.*

## Department of Transportation (DOT)

Transportation and public safety continues to be of high importance due to the presence of the Port Authority Bus Terminal (PABT) and the Lincoln Tunnel entrances in our midst. We are grateful that a number of requests are already funded and being worked on (304201724C - 10 raised pedestrian crossings, 304201727C - pedestrians ramps, 304201728C - bulb-out for the M34 at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 304201747E - redesign of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue).

However, the following projects that are not being funded remain critical to the well being of our community.

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### **Request: Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming (Tracking Code: 304201720C)**

Explanation: Install an additional 20 fully protected pedestrian crossings (split phase signals) at intersections identified as priority in the Manhattan Vision Zero Plan. Complete the installation of split phases and proper signals at the intersections of 34th Street and 8th and 9th Avenues

Agency Response: This includes more than one proposal. Please separate into individual requests for the following year. Please contact the Borough Commissioner's Office to discuss this request.

*Most of the district is included in the priority area of Vision Zero plans. MCB4 includes 4 of the 8 avenues and 5 of the 8 wide streets that are priority corridor. 11 of the 66 priority intersections are in the district. There were over 100 injuries in the last three years on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues just below those numbers. We had 9 persons killed by turning vehicles in the last 10 years including one tow weeks ago. Last year, during budget consultations the Commissioner promised to our Council Member to provide safety at additional intersections, but no action has been taken. It is critical that DOT be assigned funds to fix rapidly many dangerous intersections. Those funds should be dedicated to intersections and specifically signals, where it seems the DOT lacks proper funding.*

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### **Request: Repair or construct new sidewalks, curbs, medians, pedestrian ramps or bus pads (Tracking Code: 304201722C)**

Explanation: Extend the sidewalks: both south corners of Ninth Avenue and West 41st Street (Hells Kitchen Transportation Study). South side of West 45th Street, 8th Avenue from 34th Street to 47th Street, in particular, on the west side of Eighth Avenue between West 42nd and 43rd Streets (bike lane extensions).

Agency Response: Capital funding constraints, project capacity and City-wide priorities preclude this project at this time.

*These extensions which have been installed over the last five years, are practically unusable: on the east side of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue is the pavement is so damaged, that water is permanently pooling and pedestrians trip on the pot holes. We expect injuries and lawsuits. On 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, all kinds of vehicles are parked in the pedestrian extension rendering that space unusable for the thousands*

*of commuters going to the PABT. The sidewalks of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue are more and more congested with thousand of commuters walking in the bike lane and in the traffic everyday. Choices have to be made to accommodate pedestrians.*

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**Request: Reconstruct streets (Tracking Code: 304201723C).**

Explanation: Reconstruct Ninth Avenue from West 55th to 34th Streets to implement changes resulting from the DOT study now underway. Implement neck downs on each street block directly to the East and West of Ninth Avenue.

Agency Response: Capital funding constraints, project capacity and City-wide priorities preclude this project at this time.

*The 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corridor has exceptionally narrow sidewalks, is very dangerous and the M11 crawls to its destination. With an enormous influx of residents and businesses, it is time to change the 70-year old vehicular centric design and to reclaim space for safety pedestrians and mass transit.*

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**Request: Address traffic congestion (Tracking Code: 304201748E).**

Explanation: Expand the bus lane on 9th Avenue from 44th street to 57th street to increase the M11 reliability and consistency of its service.

Agency Response: Further study by the agency of this request is needed. Additional comment: Bus lanes projects require thorough traffic studies

*Vehicle traffic impedes seriously the M11 service on its whole route. This is the only transit option for the thousands of seniors who live along 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> avenues. It is time to dedicate a true lane to the bus protect by cameras to improve transit.*