



Matthew S. Washington
Chair

George Sarkissian
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
1664 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10035
TEL: (212) 831-8929/30
FAX: (212) 369-3571
www.cb11m.org

Manhattan Community Board 11
End of Year Report - 2009
Chair: Matthew S. Washington
District Manager: George Sarkissian

District Overview

Community Board 11 is located in the East Harlem neighborhood of Manhattan and bounded by 96th Street to the south, 142nd Street to the north, Fifth Avenue to the west, and the East and Harlem Rivers to the east, including Randall's and Ward's Island. Its residential composition consists of high rise, high density apartments, as well as old-law tenement buildings. There is a large concentration of high rise public housing in East Harlem that significantly impacts its residential and socioeconomic condition. The major commercial activity primarily occurs along the entire length of Third Avenue, as well as the East-West corridors of 125th Street, 116th and 106th Street.

Community Board 11 has always been home to large working class immigrant populations. It has a rich history of Italian and Eastern European settlement, which was then followed by a significant Puerto Rican immigrant population. East Harlem continues to be a very multicultural and working class neighborhood which is compromised mainly by Puerto Ricans, African Americans and Mexicans as well as a strong White and Asian population. The median household income in 2005-2007 was \$29,346 (American Community Survey, US Census Bureau).

List of Board members, Public members and district staff

Board Members

1. Beverly Alston
2. Chester Asher
3. Marion Bell
4. Laura Benitez
5. Isa Frank Brija
6. Monica Brown
7. Donna Brueger
8. Diane Collier
9. Brodie Enoch
10. Judith Febbraro
11. Aurora Flores
12. David Giordano
13. Joseph Goldbloom
14. Willie Mae Goodman
15. Diane Green
16. LaShawn Henry
17. Alvin Johnson
18. Jewel Jones
19. Scott Keatley
20. Amie Kiros-Petrucci
21. Wanda Latchman
22. Joann Lawson
23. Frances Mastrota
24. Israel Miranda
25. Jose Martin Garcia Orduna
26. Cesar Ortiz
27. Marina Ortiz
28. Peggy Morales
29. Deborah Quinones
30. Linda Rainey
31. Celia Ramirez
32. Kyndell Reid
33. Antonio Rivera
34. Robert J. Rodriguez
35. Carlos Rosario
36. Xavier Santiago
37. Edward Santos
38. Cora Shelton
39. Derrick Taitt
40. Alexandra Vasallo

- 41. Nadine Verna
- 42. Carmen Villegas
- 43. Candy Vives-Vazquez

- 44. Matthew S. Washington
- 45. Martha Wiggins
- 46. Joan Williams

Public Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Lee Chong | 8. Richard Touissaint |
| 2. Theresa Richardson | 9. Robert McCullough |
| 3. Jim Greene | 10. Jay Cepeda |
| 4. Guedy Arniella | 11. Dorothy Porter |
| 5. Ann-Gel Palermo | 12. Wendy Ferreira |
| 6. Johnny Rivera | 13. Raymond Ferreira |
| 7. Russell Shuler | |

District Staff

- 1. George Sarkissian, District Manager
- 2. Norma Ojeda, Community Associate

Budget Priorities (see Attachment A)

District Needs Statement (see Attachment B)

2009 Board Accomplishments & Goals for 2010

Accomplishments

- 1. East River Plaza Memorandum of Understanding – In exchange for support of an amendment to a special permit that will allow overnight deliveries to Costco, developers Tiago committed to several community benefits including local hiring targets and funding for job screening/placement, asthma prevention, local food pantry, green-scaping, business incubator, noise and air quality mitigation and community facility space.
- 2. Hobbs Court – Supported the ULURP for Phipps Houses and Urban Builders Collaborative, Inc redevelopment of NYCHA’s Metro North Houses as Hobbs Court. Hobbs Court, the subject of the rezoning application, will include 259-units of new low-income affordable housing on E. 102nd and E. 103rd Streets between First and Second Avenues. Union Settlement’s Home Health Care Agency is expected to be the occupant of the community facility space to be located in the building’s cellar. Tenants will also have access to a shared landscape courtyard/green roof for outdoor passive recreation.
- 3. Organized initial work for East Harlem Rezoning framework, identifying goals for rezoning (contextual development and affordable housing) and completing initial existing conditions surveying work.

Goals

- 1. Equip committee chairs with the tools to drive committee objectives and outcomes (ie. facilitating meetings with respective City Agency representatives and community partners)
- 2. Develop more general public participation in our regular committee meetings; increased communication and engagement with public through committee emails lists and publicizing committee initiatives and agendas
- 3. Develop a strategy focused on the preservation of critically needed affordable housing and the elevation of community residents to achieve the goals and needs of the their families

Notable meetings

1. East River Plaza Public Hearing
2. East 125th St. Streetscape Community Meetings
3. Seniors Forum

2009 Committee Accomplishments & Goals for 2010

City Properties and Land Use (Zoning Sub-Committee)

Accomplishments

1. East River Plaza MOU – Worked to consolidate the requests of all CB11 committees during the negotiations with developers of East River Plaza and included them in the final MOU. Worked to implement MOU benefits, including selecting and oversight of a local workforce development provider to recruit and screen local residents seeking employment at East River Plaza and distributing 2000 free Costco memberships through eight partner sites throughout the community.
2. Rejected Lantern Group supportive housing proposal requesting HPD instead use the City-owned property for much needed affordable housing.
3. Supported the redevelopment of two buildings in the Tenant Interim Lease program to convert into HDFC's and create much need affordable homeownership opportunities in Community Board 11.

Goals

1. Complete East Harlem Rezoning 2 Framework for submission to City Planning
2. Focus on achieving our affordable housing community preference targets and working with HPD/HDC and all other relevant agencies to adjust the income bands and create a flexible application process.
3. Complete the 1st phase of East River Plaza MOU implementation and analyze, adjust and make recommendations in preparation of phase 2 goals.

Health & Human Services Committee

Accomplishments

1. Developed and approved a resolution to request Costco accept food stamps
2. Advocacy campaign against cuts to NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation
3. Developed and distributed a solicitation for proposals for asthma prevention funding provided by the developers of East River Plaza

Goals

1. Develop and release solicitation to select a proposal to receive food bank funding and donations from East River Plaza developers and Costco
2. Engage Social Security Administration and HRA to assess community's reliance on public assistance and develop strategies to encourage economic independence
3. Work to enhance productivity of sub-committees, particularly working to find new leadership and participation in the Immigration sub-committee

Economic Development Committee

Accomplishments

1. Participated in the planning, development and coordination of the Upper Manhattan Economic Summit to develop strategies to improve the local economy and capitalize on Federal stimulus funding

2. Renegotiated the proposed rent for the community facility space offered at East River Plaza
3. Reviewed and shaped EDC's RFP for the redevelopment of La Marqueta

Goals

1. Host a job fair to connect employers with unemployed residents of Community Board 11
2. Host a business fair with the goal of increasing the availability of small business loans to local businesses
3. Work with local developers to ensure development-based job creation benefits local residents

Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Committee

Accomplishments

1. Completion and opening of Each One Teach One Park
2. Completion and opening of Crack is Wack Park
3. Completion and opening of Harlem River Park (phase 2)

Goals

1. Organize opening ceremonies for Each One Teach One Park, Crack is Wack Park and Harlem River Park (phase 2)
2. Develop a unified Manhattan Community Board approach to secure capital funding towards the necessary repairs and completion of the Manhattan waterfront
3. Review available assessments of public open space in Community Board 11 and develop a strategy to meet the assessed needs of those spaces

Cultural Affairs Committee

Accomplishments

1. Hosted the 6th Annual East Harlem Arts Festival
2. Organized and hosted Outstanding Women of East Harlem Award and ceremony in honor of Women's History Month
3. Hosted a CB11 art exhibition at Board Office

Goals

1. State of the Arts
 - a. Finish report in order to assess the current condition of the arts in East Harlem
 1. Report would be a snapshot of what artist, art groups and arts institution are located in East Harlem and some of the problems that they are facing.
2. Funding
 - a. Work with agencies like the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs to identify current funding streams coming into East Harlem
 1. Also an opportunity to find out what funding is available and work with our local arts groups and individual artists to prepare them for funding
 - b. Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone
 1. They have funding for Cultural Investment and we need to learn more about the programs.
3. Policy
 - a. Arts advocacy
 1. Work with groups such as the Harlem Arts Alliance, Bronx Council on the Arts and City and State Wide Advocacy groups to develop a policy agenda for East Harlem
 1. Potential to develop and advocacy day focused on the Arts

4. Organizing
 - a. Work with local arts group to establish a local Arts Council
 1. Every successful Arts neighborhood has an organizing body. This is lacking in East Harlem.
5. Facilitating
 - a. Partnerships between artists, arts groups and local businesses
 1. Various projects are proposed every day. Our role as a Community Board should be to match ideas with partners.

Public Safety & Transportation

Accomplishments

1. 2nd Avenue Subway construction monthly alerts – collaboration with MTA and CB11 chair and district manger to provide community with construction info which impact area residents. Alerts on website.
2. 23rd Community Council Alerts - partnered with 23rd precinct initiative to send local NYPD community activities/crime incidents to those residents/businesses who wished to sign up for text alerts. Success to be evaluated in Sept'10.
3. 109th street Car wash Progress - restored community confidence in CB problem solving with this long timed community problem now spearheaded by Emily Warren. Advocated for residents @ 23rd precinct, - working with MBPO community liaison to contact and coordinate agencies and media in addressing numerous quality of life issues.
4. Youth and Gang Violence Forum – initial forum to establish open communication about youth and gang violence in community. NYPD local precinct and Police plaza attendees with community activists. While this is the first of the forums, future forums to include youth and gang voices.
5. The late Detective Omar Epps - Pending NYPD investigation, committee proposed delay of CB statement regarding this issue. However, committee placed local NYPD cultural diversity training at the top of capital expenditures budget for 2010.

Goals

1. Foster an optimal level of cooperation and partnership with all of our local law enforcement that will enhance the level of support and promote heightened sensitivity when working with our residents.
2. Work closely with city agencies responsible for addressing community concerns that directly or indirectly affect our quality of life.
3. Engage local CBO's, Tenant Leaders, churches in a productive dialogue that will serve to establish a think tank where ideas along with concerns are brought to the committee and solutions are sought.

Youth & Education Committee

Accomplishments

1. Developed partnerships and collaborations with various groups from East Harlem including the District 8 Youth Council, CEC4 and City Year
2. Developed the CB11 Education Recognition Award for high school students from the East Harlem area
3. Took policy positions against the DOE school closure process

Goals

1. Continue to build relationships with new programs and schools entering into East Harlem
2. Expand the CB11 Education Recognition Award program
3. Build relationships with local businesses to connect youth with employment opportunities
4. Develop relationships with our local schools administrations to further understand their school's needs and how we can support them

Office Oversight Committee

Accomplishments

1. Developed a constituent complaint tracking system
2. Implemented changes in workflow to increase productivity
3. Decreased the cost of supplies by limiting the amount of paper usage and “Going Green”

Goals

1. Improve the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of CB11
2. Evaluate programs and performance
3. Detect and prevent poor administration, waste, abuse

Housing Committee

Accomplishments

1. Successfully helped Lehman Houses get the gas in their building repaired and restore
2. Met with NYCHA to address community concerns of NYCHA's budget deficits and the use of NYCHA properties for private housing development
3. Invited the Urban Homestead Assistance Bureau (UHAB) to discuss the role of HDFC's in CB11 in regards to low income home ownership

Goals

1. New York City Housing Authority
 - a. Develop relationships with NYCHA Tenant Associations
 - i. Identify TA Presidents
 - ii. Attend TA meeting and invite TA to CB11 Housing Committee
 - b. Identify and support NYCHA Tenant Association organizational needs
 - i. Encourage tenant participation
 - ii. Hold TA leaders accountable
 - c. Work with NYCHA Tenant Associations to improve housing conditions
 - i. Identify housing related concerns (heating, leaks, safety, rodents, etc.)
 - ii. Work with City agencies (NYCHA, PSA 5, etc) and elected officials to rectify concerns
 - d. Eliminate the warehousing of NYCHA housing in CB11
2. Preserve Other Rent Regulated Housing
 - a. Conduct an assessment of non-NYCHA rent regulated housing stock
 - i. Identify the various buildings that are regulated through housing subsidy programs in CB11
 - ii. Identify the terms of required affordability and when the housing could potentially be deregulated
 - b. Develop preservation strategies for all vulnerable rent regulated housing in CB11
 - c. Develop relationships with Tenant Associations and work cooperatively with them to preserve affordability
3. Achieving Community Preference Requirements for New CB11 Affordable Housing
 - a. Through CB11 ULURP review, require all developers to submit detailed outreach and marketing plans that specify exactly how and when they will reach CB11 residents in need of housing
 - b. Work with HDC to develop a legal mechanism which will allow marketing companies to solicit additional CB11 applications if the community preference is not achieved

- c. Advocate for new legislation that will widen income bands for qualifying applicants

Seniors Sub-Committee

Accomplishments

1. Organized and held Annual Senior Forum honoring Tenant Association President Katie Harris and Councilmember Inez Dickens
2. Developed Marie Dickson Senior Citizens Award honoring local senior citizens that serve the community
3. Attended a tour of CCM (Comprehensive Care Management) facility which is a long term care program that provides services for seniors 55 and older in their homes

Goals

1. Increase committee membership
2. Work to keep local senior centers open
3. Serve as a liaison between Community Board 11 and our community's senior citizens

District Service Cabinet Summary

Notable occurrences reported through the CB11 District Service Cabinet include:

- Randall's Island Sports Foundation – Reported regular progress of Ball Field renovation project
- DOT – Reported on the successful milling and repaving of East 128th Street, East 116th Street, East 112th Street and Lexington Avenue
- NYPD/DOT – Responded to pedestrian safety concerns regarding increased vehicular traffic as a result of new East River Plaza commercial development. At the direction of Chief Bank, NYPD has submitted pedestrian and vehicular safety recommendation to Traffic and DOT.
- HRA – Connected HRA wage subsidy program to East River Plaza tenants to incentivize the employment of local residents on public assistance
- DOB – Worked with DOB on several community concerns, primarily securing stalled sites and enforcing weekend variance regulations
- NYPD/DA – Reported on increased gang activity between gangs representing various NYCHA developments; discussed possible ways other agencies can prevent gang violence and work with youth and their families
- Con Edison/NYPD/DOE – Reviewed Con Edison's manufactured gas plant mitigation recommendations for the remaining manufactured gas underneath and surrounding the Manhattan Center High School and ensured mitigation would be conducted in non-school hours (likely over the summer).

Attachment A – Budget Priorities

FISCAL YEAR 2011 (JULY 2009 – JUNE 2010) BUDGET PRIORITIES

FY 2011 – Capital Budget Priorities and Requests

Rank	Request
1	<i>NYCHA</i> – Identify persistently broken elevators in Johnson, Wagner, Washington, Jefferson, Taft and Lincoln Houses and replace them with new elevators
2	<i>NYCHA</i> – Install more lamp posts within NYCHA Housing public spaces to create a safer environment
3	<i>DOT</i> – Install more lamp posts along sidewalks adjacent to NYCHA developments
4	<i>DOT</i> – Install lamp posts on Second Avenue, between East 128 th Street and East 96 th Street
5	<i>DOT</i> – Install more lamp posts on commercial corridors: East 106 th Street, East 116 th Street, East 125 th Street, Third Avenue and Lexington Avenue
6	<i>DOT</i> - Install lamp posts on East 120 th Street between Pleasant and Paladino Avenues (This block includes a public school and public housing, and terminates in a cul-de-sac which isolates the street and creates a potentially dangerous environment. Additional lighting is needed to improve safety.)
7	<i>Sanitation</i> – Two new Sanitation Trucks to pick up litter baskets from 11:00AM to 7:00PM
8	<i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Expand Thomas Jefferson Park Recreation Center to accommodate increased usage
9	<i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Rehabilitate historic/landmark Bell Tower in Marcus Garvey Park
10	<i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Reconstruct Amphitheatre in Marcus Garvey Park
11	<i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Rebuild and repair parts of the East River esplanade between 125 th Street and 96 th Street (Large and small holes in the esplanade are fenced off for pedestrian safety. Many of the large holes extend all the way to the river’s edge. This dangerous situation must be repaired to be consistent with the esplanade south of 96 th Street.)
12	<i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Build a comfort station with bathroom in the Harlem River Park
13	<i>NYCHA</i> – Construct Cultural Arts and Recreation Center on the grounds of Taft Houses
14	<i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Install hi-intensity lighting at all public parks in Community District Eleven to keep parks safe
15	<i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Complete construction of the final two phases of the Harlem River Park

FY 2011 – Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

Rank	Request
1	<i>Community Boards</i> – Restore the budget of Community Boards to \$199,895 per fiscal year (Community Boards play a vital role in planning and quality of life advocacy. As the Community Board OTPS budget has not been increased over the past several years, a budget cut this fiscal year will be more than Community Boards can absorb given their historically low yearly budget allocation.)
2	<i>Dept. of Health</i> – Hire additional bilingual doctors for local health clinics, to provide nutrition education to local residents and actively work with the community to increase its nutritional health to prevent illness such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, high cholesterol, etc. and also work to reduce Asthma rates
3	<i>Small Business Services</i> – Expand funding for East Harlem based employment training programs to target employment opportunities in expanding regional industries and development-based employment growth in East Harlem
4	<i>DYCD</i> – Provide more funding for Community Board 11 afterschool programs, not only targeting elementary and middle school students but high school students who often age-out of traditional programs

5	<i>Dept. of Education</i> – Hire more teachers for Community Board 11 schools who are bilingual
6	<i>Dept. of Health</i> – Hire additional Pest Control inspectors and exterminators to target businesses and buildings (including City-owned buildings) in Community Board Eleven
7	<i>DEP</i> – Hire additional personnel to monitor, evaluate and enforce air pollution and noise rules, laws and regulations
8	<i>NYCHA</i> – Hire more NYCHA maintenance personnel to manage buildings, specifically for garbage collection and disposal
9	<i>NYPD</i> – Provide more constitutional and cultural training for police officers
10	<i>NYPD</i> – Hire additional Police Officers to specifically create a Quality of Life Unit in the 23 rd Precinct
11	<i>NYPD, Transit</i> – Hire additional uniformed officers to patrol 103 rd , 110 th , and 116 th Street Subways Stations
12	<i>Dept of Education</i> – Provide more afterschool bus service to Randall’s Island for public school youth interested in using ball fields or other Parks facilities
13	<i>NYPD</i> – Hire additional officers assigned to the Narcotics Unit of Patrol Borough Manhattan North to work in Community Board 11
14	<i>NYPD</i> – Hire additional Detectives for the 25 th and 23 rd Precincts
15	<i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Hire additional Park Rangers or PEP Officers for Harlem River Park, Thomas Jefferson Park, and Marcus Garvey Park
16	<i>NYPD</i> – Hire additional officers to expand patrols on Randall’s and Wards Island
17	<i>NYPD</i> – Expand NYPD’s “Explorers Program” for community youth in Community Board 11
18	<i>NYPD</i> – Hire additional Police Officers for the 25 th Precinct, 23 rd Precinct, PSA 5 and Transit District 4
19	<i>DOT</i> – Hire an additional pothole crew for Manhattan to serve Community Board Eleven
20	<i>DOT</i> – Hire an additional street repaving crew for Manhattan to serve Community Board Eleven
21	<i>NYPD</i> – Hire an additional traffic officer to control traffic at the intersection of East 135 th Street and Madison Avenue.
22	<i>NYPD</i> – Hire an additional traffic officer to control traffic at the intersection of East 96 th Street and Madison Avenue (Traffic congestion is excessive at this intersection, particularly during PM rush. Cross-town traffic through Central Park at 96 th Street and 97 th Street often blocks the intersection and produces additional congestion. Double parked cars adjacent to Mt. Sinai Hospital along Madison Avenue produce added congestion. A traffic officer is needed to regulate flow and ensure vehicles don’t needlessly block the intersection.)
23	<i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Hire additional Summer Playground Recreational Assistants to work in Community Board Eleven parks and playgrounds
24	<i>DOB</i> – Hire additional Building Inspectors and Code Enforcement Officer to proactively monitor illegal active constructions sites and structurally deficient buildings throughout the community
25	<i>HPD</i> – Hire additional inspectors to monitor heat and hot water complaints
26	<i>Sanitation</i> – Hire personnel for additional Motorized Litter Patrols to clean streets in Community Board Eleven
27	<i>DFTA</i> – Keep funding levels consistent to allow all Senior Centers in CB11 to remain open and operating at current standards (Efforts to consolidate DFTA services will disproportionately impact CB11 seniors, who already had limited access to senior services. Centralizing senior centers will make them less accessible to senior citizens who have mobility problems.)
28	<i>DFTA</i> – Increase funding for Meals on Wheels programs serving CB11 seniors (CB11 senior citizens who live on fixed-incomes and are immobile must have easier access to Meal on Wheels program. The program must be better promoted and streamlined in low income communities like East Harlem.)

Attachment B – Statement of District Needs

STATEMENT OF DISTRICT NEEDS FISCAL YEAR 2010

This Statement of District Needs describes the challenges and opportunities that Manhattan District Eleven will face in the coming years. Among those challenges are the gentrification of the District, lack of affordable housing for working families, lack of commercial and retail space for local entrepreneurs and the highest jobless rates in the City. Secondary challenges such as the second highest cumulative AIDS rate (4, 682 per 100,000 adults) in the entire city and high levels of Asthma among the youth are issues that need a sound strategy from the Department of Health, as well as local elected officials to be alleviated and hopefully overcome.

Gentrification is an urban phenomenon affecting the entire City, but especially working class neighborhoods such as District 11. The median household income for District 11 was \$21,480 in 2000, which was 45.7% of the median income of Manhattan (\$47,030) (UTAP, 2003). The gap in incomes between the residents of District 11 and the rest of Manhattan put our residents at risk of displacement. New Town Houses developed by the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) through Homework's and Third Party Programs require buyers to have annual income sufficient to qualify for mortgage financing, approximately \$52,607. These homes are not affordable for the working class residents that are the engine of this vibrant community. The disparity in incomes between the residents of District 11 and the proposed prices of new homes and apartments is the main reason for the negative ramifications of gentrification, such as the displacement of residents that create the social fabric of District 11. These same residents have fought over the years to improve the quality of life of the neighborhood and make it a safe haven for their families and children.

Manhattan Community Board 11 hopes that this Statement of District Needs will have the full consideration of Mayor Bloomberg, the Commissioners in charge of delivering City services to the residents of the District 11, the local elected officials, local not-for-profits serving the District, private developers looking for opportunities to invest in the District, and local activists interested in making a positive contribution to this community.

Brief Description of Community District Eleven

Manhattan Community District Eleven includes the communities of East Harlem, Spanish Harlem, El Barrio, Wards and Randall Island, in Northern Manhattan. The geographical boundaries are East 96th Street on the South, East 142nd Street on the North, Fifth Avenue on the West and the Harlem River on the East. Although not contiguous with East Harlem, Wards and Randall Islands are a part of Community District Eleven. Geographically, the District is almost 1.5 square miles, with major transportation arteries including the FDR/Harlem River Drive, Triborough Bridge, three Harlem River Bridges to the Bronx, Metro-North Railway and the Lexington Avenue 4, 5, 6 Subway lines.

According to the 2000 Census, the population of Community District Eleven was 117,743 representing 7.6% of Manhattan's population and 1.5% of the total population of New York City. According to estimates by the INS, there are 500,000 illegal immigrants in New York City, or 5.9% of the population, which would translate to 6,947 illegal immigrants in Community District Eleven, for a total of 124,690. (There are most likely more illegal immigrants Community District Eleven than other Districts considering the relatively large legal immigrant population.) The population of Community District Eleven is mostly low and moderate income, first and second generation Puerto Ricans, African-Americans, Italians and a growing population of Mexicans, West Indians, Dominicans, Asians and Central American immigrants. In the 2000 Census, 52.1 % District Eleven residents describe themselves as of Hispanic origin, 35.7% as Black Non-Hispanic, 7.3% as White Non-Hispanic, 2.7% as Asian and Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic, 1.7% as Two or more races Non-Hispanic and 0.5% as other. Youth in East Harlem make up a larger than normal percentage of the population with 30.6% of residents age 19 or younger. The population age 20 to 64 years is 58%. The senior population of 65 years of age and older is 11.4%. East Harlem is a "renter-occupied" community as 93.6% of housing units are renter occupied and only 6.4% of housing units are owner-occupied. In 2000, District 11 had 45,891 housing units.

There are 8 homeless shelters in the district, housing 196 adults and children in family shelters, 953 men and 144 women. Also, 3 privately operated Methadone clinics. There are also 37 drug and alcohol treatment facilities and 37 mental health treatment facilities in Community District Eleven, the HIGHEST concentration of shelters and facilities of any community in the entire Borough of Manhattan and the 2nd largest in the City. The district is overwhelmed with more than our "FAIR SHARE" of shelter and treatment facilities. Each District must bear its "fair share" of social service facilities. The City has violated the City Charter's "fair share" mandate that established that the City should take into account: fair distribution across communities of the burdens and benefits of facilities; community needs for services; efficient and cost-effective delivery of services; and **social and economic impacts of facilities on surrounding area.**

NYC DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The elements for the economic revitalization of Manhattan Community District 11 already exist.

A planning assessment conducted by the Urban Technical Assistance Project (UTAP) at Columbia University discovered that the four major commercial corridors are capturing 19% of the consumer expenditures in the area. As was projected for 2003, the total expenditure potential for our community is over \$1.49 billion, while the actual total potential sales on the four major corridors was only \$282 million. This analysis, coupled with the low percentage of vacant commercial space available on the four major commercial corridors, reveals that it is likely that the projected consumer expenditures are far exceeding the potential sales of the entire District.

Manhattan Community Board 11 recommends the creation of a partnership between us, the Department of Business Services, NYC Economic Development Corporation and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development that would develop a comprehensive economic development plan for Community District 11. The recommendations listed below provide a general guideline for such an approach.

The goals of this comprehensive approach would be to:

- 1) To support the efforts of local development organizations and micro-loan programs that provides low-interest loans, grants, free one-on-one business consultation to local entrepreneurs, business plan development and implementation, which would attract new businesses and services that are underrepresented in the District.
- 2) Strengthen and expedite existing economic development plans; create and develop new economic development projects that take into consideration the social fabric of the District residents for employment and business ownership opportunities.
- 3) Develop legislation and policy guidelines to strengthen City Agency power to negotiate with private developers for the creation of commercial, office, and retail space that is AFFORDABLE to local not-for-profit and entrepreneurs.

Explore Options of Linking Jobs and Other Community Needs with Real Estate Development Projects Via Zoning and other Land Use Regulations:

- 1) Use new re-zoning of East Harlem to link development benefits to developer's willingness to help meet community and city-wide needs.
- 2) Make sure linkages are mandatory in the case of higher density, more lucrative and more burdensome forms of development; provide adequate incentives to encourage linkage with all possible ranges of density.
- 3) Review the feasibility of using zoning to provide clearer incentives for the employment of local residents (both in construction and operation) and preserve and encourage the development of commercial and manufacturing land uses.

Businesses are attracted to areas that have quality schools, clean streets and good parks. Therefore, an effort should be made to:

- 1) Publicize the quality schools in East Harlem. Improve those schools where needed, develop partnerships with businesses to train youth for future employment opportunities.
- 2) Improve the northern end of Central Park, which never receives the same maintenance or repairs as the 61st Street through 90th Street area.
- 3) Develop a community pride awareness project to enlist community support with government cooperation on maintaining clean streets.
- 4) The Mayor's Community Assistant Unit should hire a contractor in Manhattan to clean graffiti in District 11 as is done in the outer boroughs.

East Harlem: A Good Place to do Business

The City must package and market the East Harlem area to a wide variety of existing and emerging industries that can develop existing resources and provide long-term benefits to the community. These industries may include:

- Health Care
- Tourism
- Professional Services
- Back Office Operations
- Property Management.
- Retail Business.
- Light Manufacturing.
- Domestic and Foreign Trade Opportunities.

Job Development/Placement Programs

- 1) Increased access to job training programs that have been successful in East Harlem.
- 2) The training of East Harlem's youth is a top priority.
- 3) For youth, an in-school job-training program should be developed that links youth, employers and schools, identifying employment opportunities.
- 4) Training programs should have services geared toward the specific needs of the East Harlem community, especially English as a Second Language programs and customer services development programs.
- 5) Require the N.Y. Department of Labor to publicize or develop a job placement program in East Harlem.
- 6) Link job placement with future capital investment projects in housing, infrastructure, and the private sector. This can be done by taking large-scaled capital investment projects aimed at reconstruction and rehabilitation of the decaying infrastructure and reassessing them in the context of community needs such as job placement.
- 7) All new or rehabilitated developments in Community District 11 must *hire at least 65% of their employees from the East Harlem community.*

Minority and Women-Owned Business Entrepreneurs

The fact that East Harlem has one of the highest populations of Latinos in N.Y.C. but only has less than 3% Latino and less than 1% of African-Americans owned businesses operating in District 11 indicated the need for the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) to promote M/WBE. The Bloomberg Administration should develop a pilot project to increase the participation of M/WBE businesses in the redevelopment of CD # 11.

East 125th Street/Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

The 125th Street Commercial Corridor accounts for 16.6% of all commercial activity in District 11. Food service and drinking places and personal and laundry service establishments comprise the largest portion of commercial activity on 125th Street. Food service and drinking places are primarily limited services restaurants. The majority of personnel services is concentrated in beauty and barber shops. A focus on a wider variety of services will enhance the retail business establishment by serving, not only residents of the area, but also draw people from other areas to this commercial corridor (UTAP, Winter 2003-04).

It is time for EDC and SBS to work with Community Board 11 to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for this major commercial corridor, especially in light of the construction of the Potamkin Auto-mall, the East 125th Street Development and future development of Harlem Park.

Business Improvement Districts (BIDS)

The City must support and encourage the expansion or creation of a BID on East 125th Street from 5th Avenue to 2nd Avenue.

TOURISM AND CULTURAL ARTS

Rich in culture and arts, East Harlem has the potential to capitalize on its cultural identity and use it a driving force for local economic development. More effort and resources have to be put into nurturing and marketing East Harlem's cultural allure to the outside community. Just as Little Italy and Korea Town lure customers from all over the City, creating an image of El Barrio/East Harlem as an ethnically distinct and attractive neighborhood in which one can obtain a unique cultural experience can bolster a stagnant local economy.

East Harlem is rich in cultural institutions: (El Museo Del Barrio, the Museum of the City of New York, the Salsa Museum, the National Black Theater and Julia de Burgos Latino Cultural Center). Harlem's East Side is home to several landmarks (official and unofficial): the Islamic Cultural Center, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral, Cecily Tyson's House, Holy Agony R.C. Church, Mt. Carmel R.C. Church, the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George and St. Demetrios, St. Cecilia's R.C. Church, St. Ann's R.C. Church, St. Paul's R.C. Church, First Spanish Baptist Church, First Sharon Baptist Church, Chamber's Memorial Baptist Church and La Marqueta. Also, the Mount Morris Bank, (Corn Exchange) Harlem Court House, Elmendorf Reformed Church, Holy Rosary Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Langston Hughes' House, Marcus Garvey Park-Watch Tower Bell, All Saint's R.C. Church, I.S. 201 (the windowless School) and Kelly Temple Church of God in Christ. Famous restaurants include: Rao's and Pasty's. Bakeries: Valencia and Marrone. Parade/Festivals: Three Kings Day Parade, Good Friday Procession, The Cinco de Mayo Mexican Festival, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Festival, St. Ann's Festival and the 116th Street Pre-Puerto Rican Day Parade Festival. El Barrio/East Harlem is an untapped resource for tourism in NYC.

The development of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone's Cultural Industry Plan and \$25 million Cultural Investment plan concluded that the creation of Destination and Heritage Tourism Initiatives will generate tourism in Upper Manhattan. The financial stability of cultural organizations are mixed and basic capacity issues need to be addressed for groups and communities like El Barrio to participate in a major tourism initiative. *Capital improvement recommendations include the development of facilities, performance spaces, visitor service networks, themed streetscapes and signage, new lampposts, the creation of visitor amenities like restaurants and hotels and neighborhood centers. Earned income projects developed must reflect the rich cultural identity of the community and promote accessibility for tourist and community residents.*

Specific to the East Harlem community, efforts must be developed to assist the community in building capacity to identify and access cultural assets and stabilize programs for emerging and existing cultural programs. The designation of El Barrio as an Arts District is the strategy for tying together fragmented cultural programs, events, and activities, into a larger critical mass that can promote development and revitalization. The transformation of El Barrio requires the coordination of public art projects and marketing efforts to target audiences.

NYC DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Julia De Burgos Cultural Center must be categorized in the Institutional Group and not in the N.Y.C. Cultural Affairs Programs budget. This institution must receive this designation to attract ongoing philanthropic funding. The NYC City Council and the Mayor's Office must increase the annual funding for the project.

The City must sell these community facilities currently managed by non-profits to these groups. Community facilities, such as Julia De Burgos and El Museo del Barrio operate their services within these large City-owned community facilities.

We support and request increased funding for El Museo Del Barrio, the Museum of the City of New York the National Black Theatre and other cultural institutions in our community.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (HPD)

HPD needs to redefine their mission of creating affordable housing in working class neighborhoods such as District 11. HPD has missed opportunities for creating affordable housing in District 11. Every remaining City-owned lot must be developed in a manner which creates real affordable housing opportunities for the people of our community. The proposed Housing Plan by Mayor Bloomberg needs to take into consideration Household's Median Income by DISTRICT in order to provide real opportunities for working class families such the ones living in District 11.

There is a need for homeownership opportunities in District 11. We request HPD to set aside a greater percentage of future development possibilities for homeownership. The homeownerships initiative should be directed to working class families looking to upgrade their housing needs and to stay in the community. Among these residents are teachers, firefighters, police officers, social workers, local artists, government employees and small business owners.

Community Board 11 has created and approved our own Affordable Housing Development Guidelines which we request ALL future housing developments in our District to adhere to (see attached Manhattan Community Board 11 Affordable Housing Development Guidelines). We must make sure we develop the type of housing our community needs, and we MUST get it right 100% of the time from now on.

Vacant Buildings

Vacant buildings are a continuing problem in the community. Not only are they an untapped housing resource, they eventually become health and safety hazards. Deterioration, squatters, illegal dumping and vermin are all problems at these sites. Though it is said that these buildings will eventually be rehabilitated, they usually end up demolished or forgotten. In addition HPD and the Department of Buildings (DOB) need to create a partnership to encourage private landlords to rehabilitate vacant buildings in District 11. Private landlords on Third Avenue have denied this community the necessary housing units our residents have needed for years. HPD and DOB should be a catalyst force in encouraging landlords on Third Avenue to redevelop their housing stock.

Maintaining these structures is critical to the quality of life in District 11. The City should identify and renovate all vacant City-owned buildings through programs such as NEP, NRP, 2 and 3 family homes. The Homework's buildings are beyond the financial reach of the community. The average Homework's building's sells for \$400,000.00. HPD needs to find developers willing to rehabilitate City-owned buildings (including the 203 (K) buildings) and sell those buildings for a price that takes into consideration the Household Median Income of District 11.

Preservation Programs

- 1) Develop an Energy Conservation Pilot Project that could save the City funds which will be used to upgrade heating systems thus reducing the breakdown of boilers in the winter, as well as for new exterior doors, roofs, windows, etc.
- 2) Maintain the ratio of staff needed to effectively manage and upgrade In-Rem occupied tenements.
- 3) Increase Maintenance Mechanics.

Tenant Interim Lease Program (TIL)

There are numerous East Harlem buildings in the HPD TIL Program. Several buildings are being rehabilitated via the capital repair program, which we support and encourage increased funding for. Sadly, the lack of supervision by HPD coordinators in the daily operation and management of these buildings results in poor management, poorly attended tenant meetings, illegal election of officers, incomplete financial reports and unlicensed contractors who are not supervised. UHAB, the contracted group who is supposed to provide technical assistance, creates divisions among the tenants and fails to provide the technical assistance they are contracted to provide to TIL buildings.

The concept of the TIL program that results in low-income cooperatives is commendable and encouraged, however the lack of support by HPD and UHAB will result in the failure of the TIL Program in East Harlem. HPD needs to increase its supervision of TIL building operations. We request that HPD re-evaluate the system of the relocation of tenants during capital repairs which cause disruption in tenant lives, particularly the elderly. We challenge HPD to work with us in correcting and improving the TIL Program in East Harlem through cooperation.

Code Enforcement

Hire additional inspectors to record building violations, respond to heat/hot water complaints and lead paint complaints.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING

The City must increase inspections of hazardous building facades and vacant buildings that have an open roof and exposed to the elements. The City should also do random inspections of elevators, particularly in hi-rise developments (NYCHA) and boiler inspections beyond the required annual inspection. DOB must monitor buildings being rehabilitated or constructed for safety hazards. The Building must be secure and safe and include fences, security personnel, scaffolding (as well as better lighting underneath the scaffolding), visible DOB work permits and the required DOB signage.

Conduct routine inspection of buildings with UB orders after one year.

Manhattan Community Board Eleven would like to encourage the DOB Manhattan Borough Commissioner to improve communications with the Community Board and play a more active role in our Community. While Community Board Eleven often receives paper notification from DOB, they usually provide very little information. Correspondences must be accompanied with verbal conversations regarding building constructions and development in Community Board Eleven (as the number of new constructions in our community increase every year).

Construction sites MUST adhere to DOB's Noise Ordinances. After hours construction is very common in Community Board 11. DOB must make sure all construction in Community Board 11 on Saturday's is done with the appropriate permits.

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA)

We would like to commend the work that the Bloomberg Administration is doing in the rehabilitation and capital improvement in Johnson Houses, Jefferson Houses and Taft Houses in District 11. In addition we want to thank the Bloomberg Administration for listening to the community and changing the management company at the Metro North Houses. There are 23,028 Public Housing (NYCHA) units in District 11, the highest number of units in the City of New York. We request additional capital improvements, maintenance, personnel and security equipment on all doors and improved lighting. The improvement of lighting would help the Police Department to better patrol the developments and the surrounding areas.

Garbage needs to be collected more frequently around NYCHA developments, as they are often among the worst offenders in our community, leaving garbage on the curb for days.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (DPR)

A demographic analysis of 2000 census data shows that District 11's population is unusually young. The youth population aged 20 and younger is 30.6%. This is a strong indication that there is a need for additional parks, playgrounds and recreational activities. There are approximately 28 parks and playgrounds in our district that require daily maintenance as well as the repair of benches and playground equipment. An increase in park personnel will keep our playgrounds clean and safe for our children and families. More parks security/enforcement is needed, from NYPD and Park Rangers. The City should consider developing parks and other open spaces as close to youth-oriented institutions as possible, such as schools, day care centers, youth community centers and large housing developments.

We look forward to the construction of Ron McNair Park. The monies have been allocated and construction is expected to begin Fall 2005. We expect construction to be complete in one year. Our community eagerly anticipates using the park for many years to come.

DPR must assign PEP officers and Rangers to patrol Marcus Garvey and Thomas Jefferson Parks regularly, especially during the summer evening hours. DPR must enforce City laws regarding noise and other illegal activities.

The Marcus Garvey Park bell tower (the last in Manhattan) needs to be rehabilitated; it is in despair and in danger of becoming a safety hazard. The loss of this historical bell tower due to the City's neglect would be criminal. We also request the renovation of the Marcus Garvey Park Amphitheatre, which could serve as a vital resource for art and entertainment in our community.

Thomas Jefferson Park Recreation Center is currently over-utilized; we request a second floor addition to the current building to accommodate the increased usage.

Additional pools in the district must be considered and incorporated into DPR's capital budget. DPR must work closely with the community in the proposed developments at Randall's and Wards Islands. We request the Parks Department increase the number of Comfort Stations on Randall's and Ward's Islands.

Greenthumb Program

There needs to be more enforcement from the NYCHPD/Operation Greenthumb regarding the use of their gardens for what appears to be private use by tenants. Many Greenthumb lots are being used as private property, not available for public use. Many are closed and have vicious dogs and cars on their lots. Additional enforcement personnel should be hired to be responsible for working with local law enforcement entities in vacating a lot that has been canceled. Operation Greenthumb needs to make available more resources for their lots like gravel, trees, plants and wood.

Many greenthumbs are without minimal resources and could be greatly improved with additional resources. We believe the Parks Department should inventory all the Greenthumbs twice a year and inform the Community Board's Parks Committee of their results by May and November each year. We would like to be able track those organizations and individuals that manage Greenthumbs and hold them responsible to their duties of keeping up the gardens.

Waterfront

Pedestrian access is limited to the waterfront because of the limited number of pedestrian overpasses. We encourage and request that the City build additional pedestrian overpasses at East 106th Street and East 116th Street to increase waterfront use. We request the full development of the Harlem River Esplanade from East 123rd Street to 142nd Street. We wish to acquire the pilings with intent to reconstruct the pier at 118th Street in the East River.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP)

DEP needs to strictly enforce noise complaints and prosecute violators. There is a need to carefully monitor the infrastructure problems in our district that occur because of improper maintenance and repairs. Many catch-basins in our district are in poor conditions and need regular and routine maintenance. Catch-basins that are not routinely cleaned cause hazardous conditions when it rains on major thoroughfares in the district. There are an increasing number of catch-basin "cave-ins" that requires immediate attention.

DEP needs to evaluate the existing aging water and sewer mains for replacement to avoid breaks in the system.

Randall's/Ward's Island DEP Facilities

A tour and review of the Randall's/Ward's Island DEP facilities should occur annually with Community Board No.11 members and the area's elected officials.

DEP must regularly monitor the Ward's Island Water Treatment Plan for adequate and efficient operations. DEP must keep the community informed of any problems, including the leakages of toxic liquid, "down-time", etc.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)

Automatic Traffic Light System

Community District 11 experiences large fluctuations in traffic every weekday, primarily as a result of the morning and evening rush hours, as commuters from New Jersey and Westchester County pass through our District, either to avoid the FDR or cross the Harlem River Bridges. The worst traffic occurs on Third and First Avenues during the evening rush hour, which makes travel for our local residents a nightmare. We recommend that D.O.T. implement an Adaptive Traffic System, also known as "smart traffic lights". Such systems are used all over the world, from small cities to major urban areas such as Shanghai, Hong Kong, Toronto, Sao Paulo, and in the U.S., Minneapolis and Oakland. An Adaptive Traffic System could assess traffic flows in real time and adjust traffic lights to compensate for the fluctuations in volume. Implementation of these systems have resulted 20% decreases in travel time, 40% reduction in stoppages and fuel savings averaging 12% (Taneerananon, 1998). Such a system on First and Third Avenues in our District could reduce travel time for commuters as well as make intra-community travel more tolerable for our residents. Our District also suffers from high rates of Asthma and other medical conditions caused by car traffic and the resulting air pollution. Reducing traffic is not only a matter of convenience and economics but also health and quality of life.

Street and Sidewalk Maintenance

We request the resurfacing of the following specific avenues and streets: East 115th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues, East 128th Street between Lexington and Second Avenues, East 124th Street between Madison and Second Avenues and East 110th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues.

In addition, most of our side streets, off the avenues, are in need of major paving work. Extensive patching of potholes, especially inside blocks where the catch-basins are flooding with water, are in need of repair. *A survey of all side streets is needed to determine the order of priority for repairing those streets that have been neglected for many years.* The maintenance and repair of sidewalks in our district is also a high priority. Because of a large concentration of vacant land and the demolition of vacant deteriorated buildings, which require the use of heavy machinery and equipment, our district has experienced an increase in the number of cracked sidewalks. The contractors should immediately correct these repairs.

DOT must *regularly* maintain the street lighting under the Metro-North Railway on Park Avenue, between 99th and 132nd Streets.

DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION (DOS)

Collection of Garbage and Street Cleaning

The City should continue to promote educational programs to encourage recycling. It is clear that the three-day collection of residential garbage is not sufficient; five-day service must be restored. Our district has the largest concentration of public housing units in the City of New York and requires a five-day collection schedule. Community Board 11 continues to advocate for more trucks, mechanical brooms, Sanitation personnel and equipment. We request the provision of additional litter baskets throughout the district and no litter signs. **DOS must increase litter basket collection to twice a day on commercial strips (116th Street, 125th Street, Third Avenue, etc) especially during the time slot from 4:00pm to 12:00am.** A survey conducted by the District Manager confirmed that District 11 received less services during these hours compared with other Districts in Manhattan.

DOS must vigorously issue violations to those who fail to remove ice and snow in the winter.

The City must relocate the Community Board 10 Sanitation Garage, currently at 130th-131st Streets and Park Avenue, to Community Board 10! A site is currently under evaluation and construction must proceed immediately! The site selected at 155th Street and Bradhurst Street is ideal for location Community Board 10 garage. The MCB11 garage can then relocate to 130th -131st Streets.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

There are two precincts within the jurisdiction of Community District 11 the 23rd and the 25th Precincts. The 23rd Pct. covers the geographical area of 96th street (north) to 115th street (south) from East of 5th Avenue to the FDR. The 25th Pct. covers the geographical area of 115th (north) to 142nd street, East of 5th Avenue to the River including Ward's and Randall's Islands. There is a need to hire more civilian employees to allow the uniform officers to patrol our streets.

C-POP Officers should be provided scooters during evening tours to cover more area. The Police Resource Van assigned to the 23rd Precinct should be stationed in different locations throughout the district to enable the larger community to benefit from the services and information provided by the Resource Van. The Resource Van should be situated, on a routine basis, in locations where there is heavy drug dealing activities, including 101st, 103rd and 110th Streets at Lexington Avenue and 115th Street at First Avenue.

Community Board 11 continues to support the efforts of the 23rd and 25th Precincts and their many programs/units. Community Board 11 continues to advocate for more police officers, civilian personnel and equipment for our precincts. We specifically request the addition of 5 new officers to each Precinct's Conditions Unit to fight the many quality of life infractions in our community.

The combined efforts of HPD and both Precincts need to be coordinated and strengthened, regarding the use of City-owned buildings for drug sales.

Special attention should be given to community outreach, targeting residents, Community Based Organizations, local businesses, the clergy, etc, informing them of the Precinct's sensitivity training program. The Precincts should consider taking the training outside of the Precincts into the schools, churches and recreations centers such as Thomas Jefferson and Marcus Garvey.

The City needs to increase the number of officers assigned to the Precinct's SNEU Unit to combat the continued sale of illegal drugs and drug related crimes in District 11.

Transit Police

There are five subway stations in our district on the No. 4, 5, 6 IRT line, in Transit District Four. These stations are located on 96th, 103rd, 110th, 116th and 125th Streets along Lexington Avenue. A regular schedule of police patrol in all five stations should be assigned monthly to our community district. An increase in the surveillance and patrol of these subway stations is requested and needed, including uniform and undercover personnel. The transit police should patrol the surrounding areas of the subway stations in coordination with the 23rd and 25th Police Precincts in order to decrease incident response times.

Transit must especially step up patrols of uniformed police officers at the 125th Street Station to deter gang violence which has been on the rise recently.

Housing Police Bureau

Police Service Area 5 (PSA5) services our community. We support their efforts for additional officers, civilian personnel and new equipment. The Bureau needs to increase vertical patrols, enforcement of illegal activities on the grounds of NYCHA developments and drug surveillance.

Traffic Control Agents

East Harlem is a major thoroughfare for vehicular traffic traveling northbound on First Avenue crossing the Willis Avenue Bridge that connects to the Major Deegan Expressway and the Borough of the Bronx. During rush hours, the intersection on 125th Street and First Avenue is congested with vehicles going east to the FDR Drive and vehicles going north to the bridge. These highly congested intersections need traffic agents during rush hours at 135th Street and Madison Avenue, 97th Street and 1st Avenue, 125th Street and 3rd Avenue and 125th Street and First Avenue. It is extremely important that traffic at these intersections steadily flow because the toxic fumes emanating from chartered buses, trucks and other idling vehicles is a serious health concern to the residents who live along these busy intersections.

School Crossing Guards

Identify specific locations close to schools, especially busy intersections. School Crossing Guards are essential to the safety of our children; the Department needs to hire additional guards.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING

Community District No. 11 has a population of senior citizens who are in need of affordable housing, comprehensive health care coverage and escort service to shopping centers, clinics, etc. There are hundreds of senior citizens who are doubled-up and in need of housing. Every new housing development in our district should set aside at least five units for seniors who are homeless or doubled-up. These units should be located on the ground floors or the lower floors of renovated walk-up tenements.

Proactive efforts must be made to educate seniors on the recent Federal Medicare reforms and how they might impact them. Specifically, the complicated drug card program must be simplified and explained to seniors at senior centers throughout the community.

More funding must be made available to support programs for all senior citizen services in our district. Funding should also be provided for programs to help grandparents cope with raising their children, or grandchildren that have contracted AIDS.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The closing of Engine Company 36 on 125th Street between Lexington and Park Avenues is a major concern for District 11. We would like the Fire Department to provide an analysis of the resulting response times in the area formerly covered by Engine Company 36. Please take into consideration the 4000 new housing units that are CURRENTLY under construction in our community. They will undoubtedly put an additional strain on the remaining Engines in our District.

The Fire Department must test and maintain all "Fire Alarm" boxes in the district. The Fire Department must also increase building inspections for fire hazards and violations. Educational programs about fire safety and prevention should be expanded in the district schools, youth centers, community facilities and churches. Expand and increase the outreach of the free "Smoke Detector Program".

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Board No. 11 has 36,078 youth under the age of 20, which is equivalent to 30.6% of our total population. Teenage pregnancy continues to force young mothers to seek public assistance. The East Harlem Income Maintenance Center has the second largest caseload in the City. Efforts to become independent of public assistance are lacking because of limited resources. Employment and educational opportunities and day care waiting lists are limited for young mothers. Funding for day care and afterschool programs are at minimal levels.

East Harlem has a large youth population that warrant's evening youth recreation programs throughout the district. There is currently only one Beacon school in our district, which is inadequate for our teenage population. We need and request two (2) additional Beacon centers to cover the entire district. After school and evening programs for older youth are alternatives that can compete with the allure of drug trafficking. There is a need to expand evening

programming (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.). After school programs should be introduced which connect youth with jobs and internship, focusing on soft skill development and college preparation.

Youth and School Choices in East Harlem

One third of East Harlem youth are unemployed. Community School Board #4 is part of Community District 11 and boasts some best mini-school educational programs in the New York City's public school system. Parents throughout the city have grabbed a hold of this; students of other neighborhoods crowd the Schools of Choice Program in East Harlem and thus leave waiting lists for children who are East Harlem residents.

Some of the specialized schools require tests for admissions, making East Harlem students enter into a city-wide competition. Within the School of Choice Program system, it is believed that almost half of the student population is from other districts. East Harlem students must be given first priority.

The dropout rate for African-Americans and Hispanics has reached overwhelming proportions. Recent statistics show only one third of the total population in the district has a high school education (less than 10% are college graduates). We need to devote more resources to ensuring more residents of our community not only finish high school but are given the opportunity to attend college.

While there are three high schools in East Harlem, (1-Urban Peace Academy; 2-Manhattan Center and 3-Central Park East Secondary School) they are either alternative high schools or specialized schools requiring an exam to qualify. Therefore, East Harlem requests an additional high school be built, open to youth in the community.

Youth and Drug Trafficking

The crime prevention programs established in the last three years have reduced the amount of youth involved in drug related activities. We need to reinforce these successful programs, creating partnerships between local police precincts (25, 23), Police Service Area 5, the Parks Department and local non-profits that provide after-school programming.

The following strategies should be pursued to reduce drug traffic around youth:

- 1) A coordinated youth and police project should be developed for youth in large housing developments. Many youth congregate along First Avenue between 98th and 106th Streets resulting in public safety concerns. A youth-peer involvement program for Puerto Rican/Latino and African-American young people should be developed.
- 2) The reinstatement and refunding of the Community Board 11 Youth coordinator position should occur.
- 3) A coordinated youth project geared toward AIDS education and prevention is needed. Youth are increasingly becoming infected with the AIDS virus. AIDS education programs should maintain a culturally sensitive approach.

LIBRARIES (Aguilar 110th Street and 125th Street Branches)

We request the installation of additional computers, printers and access to the Internet. Our branches need additional books, staff, expanded service hours, security, and maintenance and handicap accessibility.

Funding should be increased for Aguilar Library and our 125th Street Branch. We also request a complete gut-rehab of the 125th Street Branch, including the installation of public bathrooms.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Asthma

We request the Department of Health conduct an environmental study on the high incidence of Asthma in Community District 11. Asthma is one of the major health problems facing women and their children. Community District 11's Asthma rate is 5 times the national average. A multi-agency initiative is needed to reduce the causes of Asthma including: less automobile and truck traffic, relocating one of the two Sanitation Garages in Community Board 11, relocating an MTA bus garage and pest control initiatives to minimize airborne fecal matter.

AIDS in East Harlem

East Harlem has one of the highest populations of Adult AIDS cases in Manhattan and the City of New York. A coordinated system to assist this population is needed.

As of April 2002, there were 4,853 cumulative AIDS cases in East Harlem; 3,424 (70.5%) were males and 1,429 (29.5%) were females. The ethnic breakdown of this total is 2,089 Latinos, 2,469 Black, 280 White and 15 listed as Other. Overall, this represents an increase of 227 new cases since 2001. The pace of cumulative AIDS rate was clearly evident in the periods between April 3 and April 20, 2002 when the cumulative total went from 4,839 to 4,853. Ostensibly, this was an increase of 14 new cases, or one new case every two days! This becomes even more alarming when we consider that the CDC estimated that every cases of AIDS represents 3-5 HIV infections and that one out of every three HIV infected people are not even aware of his or her HIV status! A total of 3,094 East Harlem residents have died of AIDS. Of the surviving 1,759 persons living with AIDS (PLWAs) in East Harlem, 1,190 (68%) are male and 569 (32%) are female (NYCDOH/OAS, 2002).

Intravenous drug use (IVDU) stands as the leading risk behavior in the spread of HIV in East Harlem and accounts for nearly 60% of adult AIDS cases in East Harlem. We request the expansion of staff and services at the existing District Health Center on East 115th Street. Outreach must be expanded in the community. The Community Board requests a concerted effort that increases early access to HIV care and prevention. Identified funding priorities and gaps in HIV/AIDS include the following:

- 1) Substantial funding is needed to support substance abuse programs.
- 2) Services for female substance abusers, particularly for those who are mothers and are, or maybe, pregnant at the time they seek care, are seriously needed.
- 3) More HIV prevention education programs - particularly for adolescents - and funding for such is a major priority.
- 4) More housing for people who are living with HIV/AIDS.
- 5) Case management and a working referral system.
- 6) Psychiatric and mental health services, where needed.
- 7) Workshops, seminars, literature in our schools to help educate our youth and adults about HIV/AIDS.

Heart Disease and Diabetes

Greater funding for projects to reduce smoking, monitor blood pressure, lower cholesterol and monitor diabetes is essential. More attention and resources have to be devoted to outreach and educational programs that teach healthy living and nutrition. Such programs help prevent a multitude of disease and are cheaper than the countless dollars spent on treatment.

Pest Control

We look forward to continuing our work with the Department of Health and their Rodent Initiative Program. With high concentrations of infestation, Community Board 11 needs the continued support of the Department of Health in identifying and destroying rodents throughout the District.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MTA)

Metro North Commuter Railroad

The Metro North Police Department patrols must extend beyond the station, to the "dark spots" behind the station and at each exterior exit to and from the station daily. The safety of the area needs to be improved in order to make commuters more willing to transfer from Metro North to the Subways and Buses serving the area.

Efforts must be made to beautify the area immediately in front of the station, including better lighting and the creation of a kiosk/magazine stand across the street from the station.

NYC Transit

We would like to commend the MTA for taking the recommendations of Community Board 11 and the community at large into consideration and including the 116th Street Station in the plans for the proposed Second Avenue Subway. NYC Transit has proposed the completion of the Second Avenue Subway, from 125th Street to Hanover Square, which we encourage and support. We strongly urge the MTA to continue construction of the second segment of the Second Avenue Subway at 125th Street and proceed to 96th Street.

Due to the completion of the new bus depot on 100th Street and Lexington Avenue, we recommend the MTA not locate any new bus depots in District 11. We encourage the MTA to remove the buses parked on the parking lot across from the bus depot on the West Side of Second Avenue between 126th Street and 127th Street. We believe the space can be more effectively used with a combination of housing and a commercial hub, including retail and office space that will compliment the new Potamkin Auto-mall development directly north of the site.

CONCLUSION

El Barrio/East Harlem is a dynamic and multicultural community that has the potential to create an economically balanced agenda that provides opportunities for all the residents. The economic development and growth of District 11 depends on Mayor Bloomberg's Administration and Local Elected Officials' willingness and commitment to work with the community in planning for its own future. The objectives and goals of any plan must be:

- To alleviate the negative effects that the gentrification process is creating, such as the displacement of long-term residents and local businesses, through the development of affordable housing, especially homeownership opportunities.
- To encourage private landlords along the Third Avenue, 125th Street, 116th Street, and 106th Street Commercial Corridors to work with the community to create the necessary physical infrastructure changes to develop attractive and vibrant commercial corridors.
- To develop a strong local economic base that includes residents as assets to support growth in the community.
- To coordinate City, State and Federal governments resources to support the betterment of our community's quality of life.
- To better coordinate NYPD strategies to prevent and fight crime. NYPD must plan their strategies taking into consideration the cultural heritage and diversity of the residents living in District 11.