



Matthew S. Washington
Chair

George Sarkissian
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
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Manhattan Community Board 11
End of Year Report - 2010
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 | 21. LaShawn Henry |
| 2. Jose Altamirano | 22. Alvin Johnson |
| 3. Olga Ambert | 23. Jewel Jones |
| 4. Chester Asher | 24. Amie Kiros-Petrucci |
| 5. Roberto Ayala | 25. Joann Lawson |
| 6. Laura Benitez | 26. Keith Massey |
| 7. Frank Brija | 27. Frances Mastrota |
| 8. Monica Brown | 28. Erik Mayor |
| 9. Ivan Caceres | 29. Koyi Mchunu |
| 10. Eric Canales | 30. Israel Miranda |
| 11. Hally Chu | 31. Peggy Morales |
| 12. Diane Collier | 32. Hector Nazario |
| 13. Hans Desnoyer | 33. Jose Martin Garcia Orduna |
| 14. Brodie Enoch | 34. Tatiana Orlov |
| 15. Judith Febbraro | 35. Cesar Ortiz |
| 16. Aurora Flores | 36. Deborah Quinones |
| 17. David Giordano | 37. Celia Ramirez |
| 18. Joseph Goldbloom | 38. Antonio Rivera |
| 19. Willie Mae Goodman | 39. Xavier Santiago |
| 20. Diane Green | 40. Edward Santos |

41. Nina Saxon
42. Cora Shelton
43. Derrick Taitt
44. Alexandra Vasallo
45. Carmen Villegas

46. Candy Vives-Vazquez
47. Matthew S. Washington
48. Martha Wiggins
49. Tasha Williams

Public Members

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Hunter Armstrong | 8. Jim Greene |
| 2. Jonathan Carrillo | 9. Robert McCullough |
| 3. Jay Cepeda | 10. Dorothy Porter |
| 4. Lee Chong | 11. Theresa Richardson |
| 5. Wendy Ferreira | 12. Johnny Rivera |
| 6. Raymond Ferreira | 13. Russell Shuler |
| 7. Edward Franco | 14. Richard Touissaint |

District Staff

1. George Sarkissian, District Manager
2. Angel Mescain-Archer, Assistant District Manager
3. Norma Ojeda, Community Associate

Budget Priorities (see Attachment A)

District Needs Statement (see Attachment B)

2009 Board Accomplishments & Goals for 2010

Accomplishments

1. Better incorporated technology into our regular Community Board work and activities, focusing on web-based tools accessible to Board members that facilitate decentralized work and collaboration. New tools include Google Docs for committee, board, CBO, school and attendance lists, HiTask to track all Board work and deliverables, and web-based Customer Relationship Management (CRM) to track liquor license applications.
2. Heightened the profile of the Community Board and became a better resource to local CBO's and tenant associations.
3. Worked more collaboratively with Upper Manhattan Community Boards, participating in regular meetings to organize efforts such as the Harlem Hospital Forum and 125th Street Holiday Lighting campaign.

Goals

1. Continue to work with Upper Manhattan Community Boards to have a stronger voice on common State and City budget needs in Upper Manhattan.
2. Develop a plan to reduce the 16% unemployment rate in Community Board 11.
3. Ensure that students have access to higher quality schools and that produce better educational outcomes.

2009 Committee Accomplishments & Goals for 2010

City Properties and Land Use (Zoning Sub-Committee)

Accomplishments

1. Approval of 1951 Park Avenue Project
 - a. 314 new affordable units
 - b. Worked with developers and community partners to develop a comprehensive marketing plan to ensure that developers meets the 50% community preference goals
2. East River Plaza (ERP)
 - a. Completion of Phase 1 local hiring recruitment effort
 - b. 42% of East Harlem residents in primary zip codes 10029, 10035 and 10037 employed by retailers throughout ERP. A total of 64% of applicants residing in Upper Manhattan have been employed at ERP.
 - c. 60% of people from the primary zip codes participated in the 2 day training workshop
 - d. 1,000 community residents participated in the STRIVE first source hiring program
 - e. 2,000 free 2-year Costco membership cards distributed to local community residents
 - f. Costco agreed to accept food stamps at ERP. This practice has now been expanded nationally to all Costco locations.
3. Phase I of the East Harlem rezoning has been completed
 - a. Block by block survey of soft spots
 - b. Identified Targeted area
 - c. Partnered with CIVITAS in the creation of the educational video to be used for future outreach
 - d. Meetings with Pratt Institute on unused NYCHA development rights in East Harlem
 - e. Meetings with the Borough Presidents' office land use planners
 - f. Meetings with The Dept of City Planning
 - g. Completed renderings and zoning analysis showing what is possible on R7-2 sites

Goals

1. Partner with NYCHA and community to identify, examine and make recommendations on unused NYCHA land within Community Board 11.
2. Participate in a study with community partners to create a prototype and possible legislation of the distribution of bulk and weight on unused NYCHA property.
3. Complete Phase II of the East Harlem rezoning project
 - a. Determine recommendations
 - b. Meet with stakeholders
 - c. Determine public outreach schedule and plan
 - d. Work with Columbia Graduate Students to develop green housing initiatives
 - e. Collaborate with Columbia graduate school and incorporate their findings in our proposal for rezoning

Health & Human Services Committee

Accomplishments

1. Developed a new vision and mission statement for the committee
2. Awarded two RFPs that were offered as part of the East River Plaza MOU agreement
 - a. Funding and donations for a local Food Bank which went to the Norte Dame Sisters Food Pantry
 - b. Funding for Asthma Prevention & Treatment which was awarded to Boriken Neighborhood Health Center.
3. Worked to address the health care issues, including the closings and loss vital of services throughout the community

Goals

1. Develop & Improve Health outcomes through prevention, treatment and education
2. Increase the availability and access to health care for all residents

3. Increase the number of Doctors (Minority) serving the Harlem/East Harlem Community
4. Increase the availability and access to exterminators to address the bed bug epidemic
5. Improve the Collaboration and Support with Sub Committees.

Economic Development Committee

Accomplishments

1. Supported the feasibility study for La Marqueta Mile which would redevelop the area under the Metro North Viaduct providing affordable commercial/retail space for local entrepreneurs and cultural/arts providers.
2. Assisted in the development and incubation of the new SLA sub-committee
3. Advocated for the support of paid sick leave legislation

Goals

1. Host a job fair to connect employers with unemployed residents of Community Board 11
2. Conduct an assessment of the needs of the small business community by collecting survey data and developing relationships between the committee and small business community
3. Implement the recommendations of the “East Harlem Retail Analysis” report to diversify local retail to better meet local demand and create more local jobs

Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Committee

Accomplishments

1. The reopening of Harlem River Park - Ribbon Cutting on April 2010
2. New York Restoration Project (NYRP) was awarded the East River Plaza MOU funding made available for local greening initiatives
3. Selection of the Community Candidate to sit on the Randall’s Island Sports Foundation Board of Directors

Goals

1. To continually monitor and work with the East River Esplanade Task Force to keep our community informed on their progress
2. To work intensively with groups and grass roots advocates informing our community of their garden rules and rights as a result of the September 2011 Park Department revision and new Chapter 6 Title 56 of the Official Compilation of Rules of the City of New York. ie: The Community Garden Agreement GreenThumb, GRO NYC, Green Guerilla’s New York City Community Garden Coalition, Partnership 4 Parks, New York Restoration Project and others.
3. To inform our community of the green resources available to them (Parks Esplanade, community gardens, Randall’s and Wards Island) This will be done by hosting a “Green Forum “in 10/2011

Cultural Affairs Committee

Accomplishments

1. Developed a mission statement for the committee
2. Expanded the membership of the committee
3. Developed a list of cultural/arts presenters which we are inviting each month to assess local cultural/arts CBO’s and institutions

Goals

1. Promote more local museum memberships
2. Review and revisit the installation of a statue of Tito Puente across from Duke Ellington at 110th Street and Fifth Avenue
3. Public Art Initiative
4. Review state of local preservation projects

Public Safety & Transportation

Accomplishments

1. Harlem River Park Gateway Project - Supported proposal by NYC DOT for significant changes to improve vehicular and pedestrian traffic safety and access to Harlem River Park
2. M15 Select Bus Service - Protected interests of residential community ensuring that new bus service would not impede vehicular traffic, local parking, and cycling.
3. Youth Violence
 - a. Committee was instrumental in bringing together commanding officers of local police precincts to discuss the problem of escalating violence in East Harlem.
 - b. These conversations led to stronger communication between the precincts, neighborhood parents, and the community board.
 - c. Helped establish a much needed conversation among our youth, the police department and led to the creation of the Youth Violence Taskforce, spearheaded through Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito's office.

Goals

1. Continue to build partnerships with city and state agencies responsible for addressing the public safety and transportation needs of our community.
2. Continue to monitor relationship with the local precincts, the community and youth to help minimize the level of youth violence.
3. Partner with DOT to provide optimal signage throughout our community to increase quality of life, slow traffic patterns where applicable, and enhance pedestrian/vehicular relationships.
4. Seek to address the need for the installation of proper cycling lanes to improve safety and encourage ridership in East Harlem.

Youth & Education Committee

Accomplishments

1. Assessed impact of DOE's proposed school closings and supported a new charters school which now has a student body of 100% District 4 youth.
2. Created a district-wide spreadsheet of school progress and performance to help the committee prioritize our intervention efforts and target under performing schools.
3. Hosted a holiday toy drive that collected and distributed several gifts to local under-privileged youth.

Goals

1. Visit the 10 most under-performing schools to assess their strategy to improve performance, and build partnerships with organizations developing charter schools which will impact our local district.
2. Work with local CBO's and churches that serve youth who are active gang members to develop an intervention that will end inter-gang conflict between public housing developments.
3. Assess availability of after-school programs in the district and determine if there are under-utilized school spaces that could be used for after-school programming.

Housing Committee

Accomplishments

1. Launched tenant association outreach campaign and met with NYCHA Tenants Association leaders at East River Houses, Lehman and UPACA 6 to establish a dialogue to better understand their concerns.
2. Successfully worked with tenants, local property managers, city agencies and elected officials to improve affordable housing options and conditions: gain critical repairs (UPACA 6, 1469 5th Avenue, 8-18 East 110th Street.), support homeownership (2049 5th Ave, removal from UDAAP), and ensure non-discriminatory housing practices were implemented for the a disabled constituent who had been previously blacklisted and denied housing.
3. Supported the organizing and establishment of tenant associations: The Madison Park Fifth Home Owners Association (MP5 HOA) and Tenants Association at 127 East 117th Street (127 East 117 T.A.).

Goals

1. Continue to strengthen the local tenant association community by cultivating relationships with all of the NYCHA Tenant Associations and fostering establishment of tenant associations in all rent regulated buildings in CB 11 district.
2. Launch quarterly affordable housing clinics to inform tenants of their housing rights. One out of the four clinics could be geared towards applying for affordable housing.
3. Create a working document to attack the effects of the blacklist in the affordable housing community. Ultimately, all developers seeking support from the Community Board would need to demonstrate their commitment to incorporating this document in their marketing plan.

SLA Sub-Committee (Liquor Licensing)

Accomplishments

1. Created a review process and application to enhance the community's knowledge of liquor licensing as well as provide community support for liquor license premises in the Community Board 11 district.
2. Created a liquor license CRM and database to track licenses and communication with businesses and advocates.
3. Established relationships with various business owners and managers providing support on how to work with the community regarding liquor concerns in the district.

Goals

1. Provide better communication and transparency to the public and community advocates regarding liquor licenses in the community by creative and useful marketing techniques.
2. Create better relationships with liquor licensed business constituents as well as State Liquor Authority personnel to provide informational support as a community liaison in regards to liquor licensing concerns.
3. Inform and teach more community board members regarding the State Liquor Authority process and laws to provide better opportunities to advocate community concerns.

District Service Cabinet Summary

Notable occurrences reported through the CB11 District Service Cabinet include:

- NYPD – Reported on increased NYCHA development-based gang violence, particularly amongst youth. Encouraged the 25th, 23rd and PSA 5 police precincts to engage in non-traditional responses, particularly collaborations with community based organizations, churches and parents.
- DOHMH – Reported on rat inspections in CB11. 8.7% of all inspected properties failed initial inspections and 38% of those inspected properties failed their secondary inspections. Several NYCHA properties failed the inspection; encouraged representatives to work with NYCHA on response.
- Randall’s Island Sports Foundation – Reported on the planned impacts of the 103 Street Pedestrian Bridge Repairs and opening of the new ballfields.
- DOT – Detailed the planned roll-out of the new First and Second Avenue Select Bus Service.
- DFTA – Reviewed impact of 5 senior center closings in CB11; requested DFTA work with affected senior populations on transportation plans to alternate senior centers.
- DOB – Worked with DOB on several community concerns, primarily securing stalled sites and enforcing weekend variance regulations

Attachment A – Budget Priorities

FISCAL YEAR 2012 (JULY 2011 – JUNE 2012) BUDGET PRIORITIES

FY 2012 – 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>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.) |
| 4 | <i>DOT</i> – Installation of protected bike lanes northbound along Madison Avenue and southbound along Fifth Avenue |
| 5 | <i>DOT</i> – Installation of sidewalk curb extensions adjacent to the Park Avenue Viaduct at the intersections of 102 nd , 103 rd , 106 th , 107 th , 108 th , 109 th , 110 th , and 111 th Streets to protect pedestrians crossing Park Avenue |
| 6 | <i>DEP</i> – Installation of noise and air pollution signs with fines (“no idling” and “no horn blowing”) to enforce anti-pollution rules, laws and regulations |
| 7 | <i>DOT</i> – Installation of directional left-turn traffic signal on Madison Avenue for vehicles turning left onto 97 th Street |
| 8 | <i>Sanitation</i> – Two new Sanitation Trucks to pick up litter baskets from 11:00AM to 7:00PM |
| 9 | <i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Complete construction of Phase A – 125 th Street to 132 nd Street – of the East River Esplanade |
| 10 | <i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Install hi-intensity lighting at all public parks in Community District Eleven to keep parks safe |
| 11 | <i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Build a comfort station with bathroom in the Harlem River Park |
| 12 | <i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Expand Thomas Jefferson Park Recreation Center to accommodate increased usage |
| 13 | <i>NYCHA</i> – Construct Cultural Arts and Recreation Center on the grounds of Taft Houses |
| 14 | <i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Rehabilitate historic/landmark Bell Tower in Marcus Garvey Park |
| 15 | <i>Cultural Affairs</i> – Soundproof the floor/ceiling that separates the theater and multi-purpose room in the Julia de Burgos Cultural Center so both space can offer programming at the same time |

FY 2012 – Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

| Rank | Request |
|-------------|--|
| 1 | <i>Community Boards</i> – Restore the budget of Community Boards to \$206,895 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 to serve our bilingual and dual language populations |

| | |
|----|---|
| 6 | ACS - Provide more slots and funding per child for daycare and Head Start in East Harlem to provide necessary developmental enrichment and early childhood education for kids who cannot afford private sector childcare and schooling |
| 7 | <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 |
| 8 | <i>NYPD</i> – Hire additional Police Officers and Detectives for the 23 rd Precinct, 25 th Precinct, PSA-5 and Transit District 4, and expand patrols thought Community District 11 including Randall’s and Ward’s Islands |
| 9 | <i>DOB</i> – Hire additional Building Inspectors and Code Enforcement Officer to proactively monitor illegal activity at constructions sites and structurally deficient buildings throughout the community |
| 10 | <i>HPD</i> – Hire additional inspectors to monitor heat and hot water complaints |
| 11 | <i>DEP</i> – Hire additional personnel to monitor, evaluate and enforce air pollution and noise rules, laws and regulations |
| 12 | <i>NYPD</i> – Provide more constitutional and cultural training for police officers |
| 13 | <i>NYPD, Transit</i> – Hire additional uniformed officers to patrol 103 rd , 110 th , and 116 th Street Subways Stations |
| 14 | <i>NYPD</i> – Expand NYPD’s “Explorers Program” for community youth in Community Board 11 |
| 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>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 |
| 17 | <i>DOT</i> – Hire an additional street repaving crew and pothole crew for Manhattan to serve Community Board Eleven |
| 18 | <i>Parks and Recreation</i> – Hire additional Summer Playground Recreational Assistants to work in Community Board Eleven parks and playgrounds |
| 19 | <i>NYCHA</i> – Hire more NYCHA maintenance personnel to manage buildings, specifically for garbage collection and disposal |
| 20 | <i>Sanitation</i> – Hire personnel for additional Motorized Litter Patrols to clean streets along commercial corridors in Community Board Eleven |
| 21 | <i>DFTA</i> – Increase funding to reopen all Senior Centers in CB11 that were closed due to budget constraints in FY 2011 |
| 22 | <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 2011

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. 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).

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.

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

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.