

Response to Preliminary FY 22 Budget Requests

Community Boards: (Expense 1.)

We have been informed by the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that they were directed by your office to remove \$3628 in FY 21 and \$8153 in FY 22 from all Community Board budgets. This is in addition to previous cuts with no notification earlier in this calendar year, and \$42,500 not being renewed in our OTPS budget this fiscal year. This is effectively a 19% cut.

In years past, Community Boards were held harmless from citywide budget reductions because we already operate at the slimmest margins and because Community Boards have not expanded in at least 27 years. We are the only agency with no personnel or significant baseline budget expansion during your administration. In 2015 there were 156 Community Board full time staff, citywide. In 2019, there were 168. The population has grown, our responsibilities have increased, but our staff and our budget have not.

We are on the front lines of the Covid crises, of the economic devastation it has caused our communities, and the impacts on city services we must help manage. The city has the advantage of 50 community members on each Board throughout the City, who serve voluntarily. We work closely with Councilmembers and other elected officials. We partner with all city agencies ensuring they know of issues in the community and that the community is aware of agency initiatives, rules, programs and services. We work with civic associations, community-based organizations, houses of worship, merchants, and residents from all walks of life. We are the first point of contact for all of your constituents in the City of New York. Please reconsider these budget cuts and let us serve them well.

Department of Sanitation (Expense 3, 4, 21, 24/Capital CS)

Budget cuts have impacted all city agencies but nowhere is the cut more broadly felt on a daily basis than the draconian cuts leveled at the day to day services provided by DSNY. Who thought that letting the city become dirtier in the midst of a pandemic was a wise cost saving measure? This community board fought for eight years to restore six day a week basket collection. It's now back down to three. The total elimination of manual litter patrol (MLP) has left our 54 dead ends with no procedure in place for cleaning. CB 14 had requested budget for additional MLP tools such as weed whackers and bolt cutters as this unit, which had been functioning at a high level with great results. Now, complaints about dirty streets, illegal drop offs under roadways and dead ends, litter in the commercial districts have increased. Nevertheless, BK 14 is always responsive to day to day needs and have filled in to assist other departments with storm clean up. They have also stepped up to assist our community with food pantries, food distributions and community clean ups. They should be as well-resourced as they are appreciated. It's fortunate that capital funding was already in place so that the BK 14 garage can have heat in the winter. We trust that the HVAC upgrade will move forward on schedule.

Department of Parks and Recreation (Capital 1, 2, Expense 17)

The addition of green space and maintenance of the few parks and playgrounds in this park-poor community is a need that has been underscored by the pandemic. Issues of health and

environmental justice are related to access to green space. When we have to close down streets because we don't have enough outdoor public space, the issue begins to impact transportation, and small businesses. CB14 continues to advocate for agency funding. The suggestion that we rely on an ever-changing tide of elected officials whose terms don't last as long as DPR's capital projects is not sound. We strongly urge the rehabilitation of Umma Park and are pleased to see that some funding has been identified.

DPR continues to instruct this Board to ask elected officials to fund capital and expense needs. From street tree pruning maintenance, emergency response, playground maintenance and upgrades, it is clear that DPR is not adequately funded. Engagement in this process is akin to bringing issues to elected officials' attention. The daily maintenance of DPR assets should not be considered a special project to be funded through member items. It makes no sense that DPR is not adequately funded such that other agencies have to pick up the slack. DSNY has done the bulk of tree clean-up work following storms and has cleared snow on DPR grounds. What is the agency doing to advocate for adequate funding for baseline needs? Asking elected officials to fill in deficits is not a sustainable approach.

Housing, Preservation and Development (Expense 5)

Four of the top five 311 requests in CD 14 are for HPD services. We rank 12th citywide in the number (per 1000 units) of serious housing code violations. The affordable housing deficit is increasing, while the current stock is dilapidating. The agency response is that our needs will be met with existing resources, but obviously this is not adequate. There should be an additional, meaningful investment in ensuring that the percentage of rental units considered adequate in our District exceeds the unacceptable current rate of 40%. We appreciate HPD's offer to present at a community event and will set that up in the near future.

Department for Homeless Services (Expense 6)

We are pleased that DHS has expanded and enhanced street outreach teams over the past few years. Anecdotally, there is an increase in the number of street homeless in our community. There seems to be an increasing number of encampments and so much continued resistance to accepting services. Further efforts to include social workers, mental health, experts and substance use counselors in teams are supported by this Board.

Human Resource Administration (Expense 7)

The Human Resource Administration has been an exemplary communicator during the Covid 19 crises. Weekly updates, frequent bulletins and the hard work of meeting urgent needs in such challenging times is appreciated and applauded. However, the response to CB14's budget request this year is the same general, patented non-response as we have received in past years. Why bother? We support the agency's important work in our community and will refer responses to OMB to consider a different approach to budget consultations so that our hard work bringing local community concerns to HRA's attention is reciprocated with meaningful information.

Department of Youth and Community Development (Expense 8)

We appreciate DYCD's pivot in the face of health and safety concerns during the pandemic. Thank you for your focused and informative response to CB14's budget priority. On March 11,

2000, CB14 hosted an in-person youth conference. SYEP was a big draw and the work of DYCD and our local organizations such as COJO to provide a summer experience for youth was impressive in the face of a quickly shifting environment. Planning continues to be difficult with so many unknowns in the near future. CB14 will hold a virtual youth conference in May and we look forward to continuing to partner with DYCD in order to serve youth in our community.

Department of Transportation (Capital 8, 11)

Please provide an update of road bridge safety projects in CD 14.

DOT earmarked \$60 million to address trench conditions in Brooklyn. None of that funding was directed to CD14. None of the projects have begun. When can we expect trench restoration to begin and additional funds to be identified?

Administration for Children's Services (Expense 9)

We are glad to be in agreement with ACS as to the importance of maintaining manageable caseloads. However, the response is not clear as to outlook. Has the agency experienced or do you anticipate an increase in cases in the wake of the pandemic and does funding seem as though it will be adequate to maintain important focus?

Department for the Aging (Expense 10, 13)

It is concerning that DFTA anticipates limited funding for casework when the Covid 19 pandemic has had a variety of impacts on aging residents. How can we continue to advocate for these needs? We will continue to advocate for funding to expand senior center services as appropriate.

Department of Small Business Services (Expense 11)

We are gratified the SBS will engage in further study to harness potential economic benefit from film and television productions. CB14 would be happy to take part in conversations with SBS and MOME.

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Expense 2, 12, 19)

We are gratified that DOHMH will review resources to ensure they are adequate to meet the mental health and hygiene needs present in our community. We hope these services will complement street outreach services as we have experienced an increase in reports of substance use in public spaces and ongoing refusal to accept services offered by street outreach teams.

Rodent complaints have not subsided. The agency notes that abatement will be accommodated with existing resources. Have existing resources continued to be adequate?

Department of Environmental Protection (Expense 14, 16)

We remain interested in DEP's collaboration with DOHMH and other agencies to develop a wastewater testing for evidence of viruses in order to respond to public health issues. CB14 will support the Department's advocacy for resources.

It is disheartening that DEP requires further study of CD14's chronic flooding locations when we have brought these locations to DEP's attention many, many times over the years. However, we

will do so again. Please comment on the adequacy of DEP's budget to meet needs pertaining to watermain inspections.

Brooklyn Public Library (Expense 15)

BPL has developed such a broad array of services to support our community in myriad ways. BPL continues to pivot and expand services as circumstances allow. CB14 stands ready to support BPL on any specific initiatives as they develop.

Department of Buildings (Expense 18)

We are gratified that DOB dedicated additional resources to expand the number of building inspectors to address construction complaints. Please provide an update on the scope of this project.

New York City Police Department (Capital 7, 13)

Please advise as to status of a site search and plans regarding the on-site scoping study that was conducted in 2019. What upgrades are planned for the current site? Further study should not be necessary given that repairs would be work-order driven.

Fire Department City of New York (Capital 9, Expense 20)

Please provide details on firehouse upgrade projects within CD 14. CB14 continues to support the expansion of EMS and FDNY personnel.

Department of Education (Capital 4, 5, 15)

CB 14 has been identified as a district in need for over a decade. Please provide an update on site search efforts over the past 3 years. Is funding needed to continue a site search? Has the Covid 19 pandemic changed the need for physical space budgeting? We are not convinced that the Department has already funded technology needs to accommodate home learning. It is disheartening that SCA will not recommend funding sanitation storage plans in existing or new schools. Schools should be able to do better with waste.

Other:

*Newkirk Plaza (Expense 22, Expense 23, Capital 3)

DOT, MTA, EDC – letter to Mayor and Borough President

Transit Authority (Expense 23, Capital 10, 12) - Follow up at Transportation Committee Meeting Church Ave station

Crossing guards (Expense 24) – address within NYPD reforms

Expand Broadband – EDC (no), DOE (done), DOITT?