



PRELIMINARY

Fiscal Year 2017 Statement of Community District Needs and
Community Board Budget Requests
for
Bronx Community Board 6

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INTRODUCTION

The annual Statements of Community District Needs (CD Needs Statements) and the Community Board Budget Requests (Budget Requests) are Charter requirements and an integral part of the City's budget process. When developed through informed planning and careful consideration, CD Needs Statements and Budget Requests can play an important role in consultations of community boards with agencies, elected officials and other key stakeholders on a broad range of local planning and budget priorities. These tools also provide a valuable public resource for neighborhood planning and research purposes, and are used by a wide audience seeking information about New York City's diverse communities.

This year, for the first time, community boards electronically submitted a CD Needs Statement combined with their Budget Requests. The goal of these improvements is to simplify preparation of both documents for the community boards and to make the information community boards provide more easily accessible for City agencies and other stakeholders. Simplified and more efficient processes will allow all parties involved in the budget process to consider budget decisions more thoroughly, with better results for all New Yorkers.

This report represents Bronx Community Board 6's Preliminary Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. Community boards will have the opportunity to edit their CD Needs Statements and amend and prioritize their Budget Requests in the course of the annual Borough Budget Consultations, which will take place from mid-September through mid-October. The final submission is due on October 30.

This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the Community Board which is displayed in italics.

Some community boards provided substantive supplemental information. This supportive material can be accessed by clicking on the links provided in the document or by copying and pasting them into a browser.

1. COMMUNITY BOARD INFORMATION

Bronx Community Board 6

Address: *1932 Arthur Ave., 709*

Phone: *718-579-6990*

Email: *brxcb6@optonline.net*

Website:

Chair:

District Manager: *Ms. Ivine Galarza*

Community Board Officers:

2. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Bronx Community Board 6 provided the following overview of their district:

Community Planning Board #6 is located in the Central part of the Bronx, serving the communities of Belmont, Bathgate, E.Tremont Ave. and West Farms with a total miles area of 983.8. According to the 2010 census our population was 83,268. BXCB6 is primarily populated by low and middle income residents. 60% receiving some form of income assistance. At present Major Development is slated for community board 6 with over 1,000 new housing units and at least 72,000 square feet of commercial/retail space. Each of these projects are based on mixed-use affordable housing schemes. The growing population means overcrowded schools and a need for additional day care facilities. Presently there is a need to develop Senior Housing to accommodate the baby boomers growing population. CB6 has an increasing obesity problem and is presently working alongside Schools, the department of Health, Senior Citizen organizations in order to create healthier lifestyles i.e. more outdoor activities, distribution of food and vegetables/fruit vouchers, education on calorie counting etc.

3. MAIN ISSUES

As part of this year's process, community boards were asked to select from a list the three most pressing issues facing their district. Bronx Community Board 6 identified the following three issues:

- *Schools*
- *Crime*
- *Affordable housing*

Bronx Community Board 6 provided the following explanation for their choices:

1. SCHOOLS: Bronx Community Board #6 schools are overpopulated. There is no room for recreational activities, due to outdoor classrooms which have taken over the school yards of yesteryear. There are now up to 4 different schools in one building, some from kindergarten to 12th grade. Students begin their lunch time at 10:00 am. and end at 2:00 just before school lets out. 2. CRIME: Crime is increasing in our Schools, Parks, and in general. Bullying is rampant within our schools, an effort is being made to hold forums and seminars with the Police Department to curve bullying in the schools. Parks do not have the pep officers necessary to monitor our Parks, i.e. close at dusk, during special events, etc. 3. Affordable housing: Community Board 6 has 14 homeless housing services and 40 special needs facilities, our concern is that this trend will continue ,however, we are confident that the myriad of developments slated for affordable and mixed use coupled with the Mayor's 200,000 housing plan will help to eradicate the housing crisis.

4. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND COMMUNITY BOARD BUDGET REQUESTS

Community Boards were asked to identify their district's needs related to the following seven policy areas:

- Health Care and Human Services;
- Youth, Education and Child Welfare;
- Public Safety;
- Core Infrastructure and City Services;
- Land Use, Housing and Economic Development;
- Transportation; and
- Parks, Cultural and other Community Facilities.

Based on the needs identified, community boards then had the opportunity to make budget requests to address these needs.

The following sections describe the specific needs and budget requests of Bronx Community Board 6 for FY 2017.

4.1. Health Care and Human Services Needs and Requests

Main Issue

Services to reduce homelessness

The Community Board provided the following explanation for the above issue:

Many Health and Human service issues derive from Homelessness. For example, low income residents who are homeless do not have access to healthy food options, are most likely to get an infectious disease, have mental issues and prone to Domestic violence.

Community District Needs and Requests

4.1.1. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Health Care Facilities and Programming

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Health issues are of great concern in community board 6, as we have many residents that are either unemployed, or receiving public assistance. Many have obesity issues. Many times the bodegas do not sell healthy food and so an effort has been ongoing with the Health department to educate the public on healthy eating as well as encourage bodegas to sell more fruits and vegetables.

4.1.2. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Facilities and Programming for Older New Yorkers

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Seniors are in need of more education on Safety i.e. many seniors are at risk when they go to Parks, the Cashier, Banks etc. They are also vulnerable of break- ins and scams and elder abuse.. Health issues due to poor nourishment, and tight budgets.

4.1. Health Care and Human Services Needs and Requests

4.1.3. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Facilities and Services for the Homeless

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Community Board 6 has the highest number of shelters, and organizations that provide services for the homeless population, i.e. people with substance abuse, rehabilitation services, formerly incarcerated etc.

4.1.4. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Services and Programming for Low-Income and Vulnerable New Yorkers

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

According to the Census Tract, from 2009 -2013, the median income for Bronx residents was 34,388, and the percentage of people living below the poverty line was 29.8%. Residents in District 6 are among this population. District 6 serves as a home to many immigrants. Due to documentation issues, lack of experience and education needed, many of these residents may not have access to high paying jobs. Thus they may become pan handlers, or work at fast food or retail jobs which merely pay minimum wage. Many undocumented residents also risk their lives working in unhealthy circumstances and dangerous jobs such as construction sites. The low income population of District 6 is a disturbing issue and great concern because it affects other aspects of their lives, i.e. health care, education, and may also augment cases of domestic violence. Seniors who do not have food stamps or have a fixed budget cannot afford to eat properly and are prone to health issues.

4.2. Youth, Education and Child Welfare Needs and Requests

Main Issue

Youth workforce development and summer youth employment

The Community Board provided the following explanation for the above issue:

Although all the issues mentioned herein are of utmost importance, the development of a youth workforce force and summer employment is priority when it comes to the livelihood and growth of our youth, the lack of jobs means more youths in the streets, with no money and in danger of doing the wrong thing. Sometimes a summer job takes away the pressure from parents who are trying to make ends meet.

Community District Needs and Requests

4.2.1. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Educational Facilities and Programs

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Educational facilities such as vocational, GED, after school programs, summer camps are essential for our overpopulated urban community.

4.2.2. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Services for Children and Child Welfare

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Provide more day care centers so that parents can get jobs. Enhance funding for child protective services.

4.2.3. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Youth and Community Services and Programs

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Expand Beacon programs, adolescent & adult literacy programs, young fathers parenting skills.

4.3. Public Safety Needs and Requests

Main Issue

General crime

The Community Board provided the following explanation for the above issue:

Just like other parts of the Bronx, Community Board 6 experiences an astronomical rate of crime. In a meeting held at the 48 Precinct last December, it was reported that Burglaries within the District had increased by 26%, and felonies had augmented by 3.8% as well. These high crime rates are partly due to the fact that the 48 Precinct barely has 200 police officers, as compared to the over 80 000 residents in this community. Clearly, this ratio of one policeman to 400 residents translates into insufficient police patrol and delayed response from the Precinct. This District boasts of a huge stretch of local businesses along the East Tremont strip. Among these businesses, are bodegas, which frequently get burglarized. Another popular crime that is reported is assault on youths.

Community District Needs and Requests

4.3.1. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Policing and Crime

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

In order for police to serve the community effectively, they need the necessary tools, i.e. sector cars, cameras, and an increase in manpower.

4.3.2. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Emergency Services

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Agencies such as the Fire Department , EMS ,and NYPD should be equipped to service the public with adequate equipment and manpower.

4.4. Core Infrastructure and City Services Needs and Requests

Main Issue

Cleanliness/trash collection

The Community Board provided the following explanation for the above issue:

Trash collection has always been an issue in this District. It is not uncommon to see heaps of trash on streets, on corners, Plazas in open spaces, such as parks. It is also common to see overflowing trash cans all over the District. We have gotten numerous complaints about there not being enough trash cans at bus stops, specially in the shopping strips causing residents to throw trash on the ground. This is undoubtedly a hazard to all residents, as it contributes to the overall pollution and rodent infestation in the District.

Community District Needs and Requests

4.4.1. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Water, Sewers and Environmental Protection

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Sewers need to be inspected and cleaned frequently so as to avoid clogging, dumping. Hydrants should also be inspected in order to ensure that water flows properly or that they are always in working order.

4.4.2. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Sanitation Services

The Community Board did not provide any high level comments or background.

4.5. Land Use, Housing and Economic Development Needs and Requests

Main Issue

Small Business services

The Community Board provided the following explanation for the above issue:

A huge segment of this district is the East Tremont strip, which boasts of numerous small businesses. Due to this, it is incumbent that the District pays attention to these small businesses and their needs. Earlier this year, after handing out numerous surveys about what these business owners needed, the Community Board hosted a meeting with the Small Business Owners and representatives of city agencies, to address their concerns. During that meeting, it was obvious that these business owners had severe issues. Ranging from issues with landlords, garbage pick up, etc. Community Board 6 is host to 2 BIDS, Fordham Road and Belmont . These two BIDS are very successful in educating their merchants on their rights and responsibilities.

Community District Needs and Requests

4.5.1. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Land Use

The Community Board did not provide any high level comments or background.

4.5.2. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Housing Needs and Programming

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Community board #6 is second to the smallest board in the Bronx. Almost all of the city owned land has been built on. Two major rezoning have allowed for additional housing to be developed. Today there are many more privately owned buildings which are going into contract with the city in order to provide much needed housing to the continuously growing population of this district.

4.5.3. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Economic Development

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Although Community Board 6 has two Business Improvement Districts,(Belmont and Fordham) the E.Tremont business district has been trying to become a BID with no success. Always in transition due to high rents, businesses cannot thrive. Many are 99 cent stores, nail salons, that occupy the E. Tremont strip. Meetings have been hosted by community board #6 with city agencies, i.e. Small Business Services, Consumer Affairs to no avail. East Tremont has slowly become a very gritty area not a pleasant place to shop.

4.6. Transportation Needs and Requests

Main Issue

Parking operations

The Community Board provided the following explanation for the above issue:

Just like any other part of New York City, District 6 has its fair share of unavailability of Parking spots for residents. To add to this problem, however, is the fact that District 6 has many automobile shops that illegally park unlicensed cars at spots that belong to residents. This makes the already burdensome issue of parking simply unbearable for most residents in this District, the automobile repair shops have these unlicensed cars on the streets at all times for sales and repair; depriving residents of these parking spots. Community board 6 along with NYPD and DOS are organizing towing details to curb this illegal practice.

Community District Needs and Requests

4.6.1. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

The department of City Planning and State & City DOT have projects pending for the Sheridan Expressway, the West Farms area. During Fiscal year 2014 these agencies were successful in the Webster Ave. Fordham Road area where they implemented traffic calming measures. The Fordham Road Plaza project implemented bus only route on Third Ave. and rerouted streets.

4.6.2. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Transit Services

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Residents often complain of subways not working, running on time etc. MTA does not communicate with riders regarding projects schedule disruption. MTA does not have in place cleaning crews for the upkeep of surrounding areas, cutting weeds, garbage etc. Additional personnel is needed.

4.7. Parks, Cultural and other Community Facilities Needs and Requests

Main Issue

Park care and maintenance

The Community Board provided the following explanation for the above issue:

Although this District is endowed with numerous parks, most residents are not comfortable being there, because of the low level of parks care and maintenance. On several occasions, residents, have reported trash in our parks. There have also been complaints about our parks not being open or closed on time. In some instances, there have been reports of homeless people sleeping in the parks. Due to the poor maintenance, the trees in some of these parks are old and dangerous to the safety of residents. Recently, a tree in one of our parks fell on children. Many of our parks need to inspect trees frequently.

Community District Needs and Requests

4.7.1. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Parks and Recreational Facilities and Programming

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Additional Parks personnel is needed for the upkeep, i.e. cleaning, monitoring, pruning of all parks, malls.

4.7.2. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Cultural and other Community Facilities and Programming

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Although community board 6 will host a state of the arts cultural center (Bronx River Arts Center) more support is need for after school programs, beacon programs to fulfill the need of the growing population in our district.

4.7.3. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Library Facilities and Programming

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Community Board #6 has always been supportive of Libraries. To date because of our recommendations our libraries have received funding for capital as well as expense budgets. According to a recent memo received from the Vice President for Government and Community Affairs of NYPL, our continued support has allowed the NYPL to provide essential programs and services, such as ESOL classes, after school programs, technology training and world class research services, to the residents of this community.

4.7.4. Community District Needs and Requests Related to Community Boards

The Community Board provided the following high level comments and background:

Although the budgets for community planning boards have increased, the current budget only allows for the hiring of third staff person. The responsibilities of the community board are monumental, there are at least 50 volunteer board members, numerous meetings, issues on a daily basis that require immediate attention. The expansion of the community board staff will allow for better service delivery to our constituents.