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BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD**

July 20, 2017

***In Attendance:***

***Presiding:*** Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President; Lucille Songhai, Director of Community Affairs; Lesly Almanzar, Community Liaison to CB 6 and 12; Andrew Chang, Community Liaison to CB 1 and 2

***Council Members:***

Cory Epstein, Communications Director, Council Member Daniel Garodnick

***Citywide Elected Officials:***

Jennifer Greer, Manhattan Outreach Coordinator, Public Advocate Letitia James

***Community Boards:*** Anthony Notaro (CB 1); Terri Cude (CB 2); Jamie Rogers, accompanied by Clint Smeltzer (CB 3); Allen Oster, accompanied by Jesse Bodine (CB 4); John Murray, accompanied by Janet Pawson (CB 5); Claude Winfield, accompanied by Brian Van Nieuwenhoven (CB 6); Roberta Semer, accompanied by Christian Cordova and Audrey Isaacs (CB 7); Jim Clynes, accompanied by Debora Teitelbaum and Daniel Dornbaum (CB 8); Padmore John, accompanied by Ken Miles (CB 9); John Lynch, accompanied by Troy Gethers, Keith Taylor, and Raquel Vasquez (CB 10); Marie Winfield (CB 11); Richard Lewis, accompanied by Gerard Dengel (CB 12)

***Minutes:*** Brian Lafferty, Special Projects Liaison

***Agencies:*** Jay Gottlieb, Deputy Assistant Director, OMB; Lester Siegal, Unit Head, OMB; and Jorge Hernandez, DCP

*Agenda for July 20, 2017 Borough Board - Adopted*

*Minutes for June 15, 2017 Borough Board - Adopted*

***Presentation: Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Request Process***

***Presenters: Carolyn Hagerty, Senior Analyst, Office of Management and Budget and Arundathi Amirapu, Team Leader, Department of City Planning***

Carolyn Hagerty, Senior Analyst, Office of Management and Budget: My name is Carolyn Hagerty. I'm from the Office of Management and Budget's Community Board Unit. Joining me today is Lester Siegel, Office of Management and Budget, Arundathi Amirapu, Department of City Planning and Jorge Hernandez, Department of City Planning. Our teams



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at the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of City Planning work together jointly on the community board formal submissions process.

Although community boards only make their formal submissions once per year, we work with community boards throughout the year as they interact with the City of New York's budget process. Today, we'll give a brief overview of the budget process and describe how the community boards fit into it. We'll also discuss the use of the online form through which community boards submit their district needs statements and prioritized budget requests as well as other resources that can help community boards' to prepare their district needs statements and budget requests.

Next we'll discuss when community boards should expect responses to their submissions and give an overview of the upcoming borough budget consultations. Lastly, we'll open it up to questions. There are three main budget documents released each year in preparation for the City of New York's Fiscal Year, which starts on July 1st. First is the "January Plan" or Preliminary Budget. The City Charter states that the Preliminary Budget is to be released on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Preliminary Budget includes city agencies' departmental estimates, updates from the previous Fiscal Year's Adopted Budget, and a financial plan. It's an official document, but it's the equivalent of a rough draft and provides a first look at what the upcoming budget will look like. The "Mayor's Budget" or Executive Budget is released on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Budget provides a much clearer view of what the Adopted Budget will look like because it includes more specific details and funding initiatives. Finally, the Adopted Budget is released in early June, when it is adopted by the City Council and signed by the Mayor. These are the main stages of the City of New York's budget process.

Throughout the year, there are many different parties collaborating and each of which have specific roles. We are now in fiscal year 2018. Agencies want to start looking at what they will be funding in the next fiscal year before the Preliminary Budget, so they request input from community boards beforehand. Community boards submit their statements of district needs, which describe long-range, local issues and board strategies, and their prioritized budget requests to the Office of Management and Budget through an online form on or by October 31st. We ask that budget requests are limited to 40 capital budget requests and 25 expense budget requests for programs or personnel per board. Depending on each community board's bylaws, community boards may or may not vote on budget requests and priorities before they are submitted.

Every year, community board submissions are due on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The submission platform was created by the Department of City Planning, which went through the past ten years of district needs statements (which used to be submitted by each board individually in different formats) which broke it down into seven different policy and service areas, including 1 - health care and human services, 2 - youth, education and child welfare, 3 - public safety, 4 - core infrastructure and city services, 5 - land use, housing, and economic development, 6 - transportation, and 7 - parks, cultural and other community facilities.

There are three inputs that must be by each board through the form. First, for each of the



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seven policy areas, the form asks community boards to put the Community Board's most important issue in a policy area (selected from a drop down menu). Second, the form asks community boards to submit their narrative statements on each of the policy areas regarding each community board's unique needs. Needs are broad categories of programs and services that are specific to a city agency. Third, community boards make their specific budget requests. These are then sorted and sent by OMB to the relevant agencies. I'll talk more later about how agencies respond to these requests. The submission form is now available so community boards may begin working on their needs statements and on their specific budget requests.

There are different ways to gather information for the needs statements and budget requests. The three budgets (Preliminary, Executive, and Adopted) come out on three specific dates, but there's discussion and dialogue throughout the whole year. There are two different types of consultations that community boards have with city agencies. First, there are district consultations with local service chiefs in late spring and early summer, which is right before the beginning of the following fiscal year on July 1st. At this point, community boards have a good feel of what will be in the Adopted Budget and have received responses from agencies. Community boards' district consultations are discussions with agencies to follow up on their requests and they allow the community boards to see if the agency responses to their requests make sense before they submit their needs statements and budget requests for following Fiscal Year. Second, there are borough consultations, which are put together by our team at the Office of Management and Budget and take place in September and early October. Borough consultations are between community board district managers and city agency representatives at the borough level so Manhattan's community boards will work together to develop agendas for their consultations as a borough by identifying mutual or borough-wide issues.

Community boards also host public hearings in late summer and early fall. Then, after the Preliminary Budget comes out in mid-January, community boards will hold public hearings to hear the public's reactions to the Preliminary Budget. Also, at this time, community boards receive responses from city agencies to their respective budget requests. These responses enable each community board to prepare a letter of comment, which is the community board's formal submission to the agencies after the agencies' responses to the budget requests. In addition to hosting hearings, community boards can also testify at hearings, including the Borough Board Public Hearing in February (after the Preliminary Budget is released) and City Council hearings in March (after the Preliminary Budget is released and before the Executive Budget is released) and May (after the Executive Budget is released and before the Adopted Budget is released). Finally, there are specific documents that can help community boards to prepare their submissions.

On the Office of Management and Budget's website, community boards can retrieve information on expense and capital budgets as well as registers of previous Fiscal Years' community board budget requests. After community boards submit their district needs statements and prioritized budget requests in late October, each community board will receive responses to its requests. After the Preliminary budget is released, agencies respond



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in writing to each community board request. After the Executive and Adopted Budgets are released, Office of Management and Budget task forces respond on the funding status and the viability of each boards budget requests.

In addition, the Office of Management and Budget provides district resource statements from the top fifteen service agencies. These district resource statements are informative documents that break down service delivery items within each of community district. For example, there is a library district resource statement, which provides data from each of the public library branches, including circulation data and visitor attendance from the past year. The capital commitment plan is also on the Office of Management and Budget's website. Moreover, the Department of City Planning's website has district needs statements from previous Fiscal Years as well as a city-wide statement of needs. Finally, the Mayor's Office of Operations publishes the Mayor's Management Report, which is a very informative document that lists each city agency and the services they provide. It is written by the city agencies themselves and discusses their individual missions and mandates. I'm going to turn it over to Arundathi from City Planning who will discuss additional online resources to help community boards to investigate, understand, and articulate their district needs and corresponding budget requests.

Arundathi Amirapu, Team Leader, Department of City Planning: The Department of City Planning has datasets on its website that help community boards to articulate their particular needs. First, there is the community portal which breaks down a series of information at the community district level. Second, the Department of City Planning has created mapping resources for each community board. If a community board needs special cuts of maps and does not have geographic information system capabilities amongst its board members or staff, you can call Jorge Hernandez or myself and we are very happy to help you put together a custom map. The Department of City Planning has also created a New York City Facilities Explorer. The City of New York has mandated the Department of City Planning to publish a list of every city-owned, city-leased, and city-permitted facility within the city. So the Department of City Planning created this incredibly accessible tool which maps out all of these facilities. You can zoom into your respective community board districts and explore all of its schools, sanitation garages, childcare facilities, and any other type of city owned, leased or permitted facility. The Department of City Planning is happy to show you and your boards how to use it if you are having difficulty with it. You can cut out a specific map or view specific types of facilities and the Department of City Planning is continuously adding data to it. For example, if you look at the school data, we've added the number of school seats and the school utilization, which means that you can click on a school and see what its capacity is. The URL for the New York City Facilities Explorer is [capitalplanning.nyc](http://capitalplanning.nyc).

Richard Lewis, CB 12: Does that include vacant lots?

Arundathi Amirapu, Team Leader, Department of City Planning: No, but I will get to vacant lots in a moment. The third tool produced by the Department of City Planning that I would like to discuss is ZOLA. ZOLA is a zoning and land use application that allows you to go into



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your respective community districts and examine the zoning and land use of particular blocks and lots. If you're examining land use, you can sort by land use types and select vacant lots in a given block or around an entire community board district. Consequently you can find the vacant lots in your community district and see what they are zoned for currently.

Another online mapping tool that the Department of City Planning has created is the New York City Census Fact Finder, which uses United States Census data as well as data from the American Community Survey, and breaks it down not just by community board or district level, but also by neighborhood and census tract levels. It allows you to explore all types of demographic data, including age, poverty, income, housing units, housing occupancy, etc., that the United States Census collects. The New York City Census Fact Finder can help you determine baselines and articulate your district needs. Finally, the Department of City Planning and the Office of Management and Budget hold training sessions on how to use the submission form and we dive into how to use these tools to fill it out.

John Murray, CB 5: Do you have the dates of the training sessions published?

Arundathi Amirapu, Team Leader, Department of City Planning: We haven't published the date of the training sessions yet, but they will be on either the 14<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of August. I don't want to confirm the date, but it will definitely be that week and an email with the date will be sent out.

Anthony Notaro, Jr., CB 1: I'd love to get copies of this presentation for staff.

Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: We will send this to chairs and DMs.

Carolyn Haggerty, Senior Analyst, Office of Management and Budget: I'll just wrap up. So again, community boards make their submissions in late October and this gives the agencies time to see what community boards are submitting, look at their own departmental estimates, and the Preliminary Budget and respond. The agency responses are emailed to you and posted on the Office of Management and Budget website. For each of your budget requests, there's an agency response.

After receiving these agency responses, community boards hold a public hearing and put together a letter of comment to the agencies and elected officials before the Executive Budget so that they can be taken into account for the Executive Budget. The Office of Management and Budget sends excerpts of these letters of comment to relevant agencies and Office of Management and Budget Task Forces. Each city agency has an Office of Management and Budget Task Force and these Task Forces provide responses to the budget requests after the Executive and Adopted Budgets are released in April and June. So again there is another register of requests that will be emailed out to your community boards and put on the Office of Management and Budget website.



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Borough budget consultations are held in September so community boards and District Managers have been putting together agendas for these consultations. These consultations are meetings between community boards and city agencies that are organized by our team. There are thirteen days of borough consultations and each borough has three days of meetings (except Staten Island, which has one day). So Manhattan will be meeting on the first three Wednesdays of September (September 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>). These are full day meetings that run from 9:30am until approximately 4pm. Community boards and District Managers collaborate on a borough level to submit agendas which are meant to focus on borough wide or shared concerns. The Office of Management and Budget sends these agendas off to city agencies, which written responses in advance so that when the agencies and community boards and District Managers meet they are more or less on the same page. These written responses are not meant to take away from the dialogue. The agency representatives will be there and there will be a back and forth discussion.

Claude Winfield, First Vice Chair, CB 6: Could you go back to the slide with the documents that help community boards to prepare their statement of needs and budget requests? I know that the citywide statement of needs cites facilities that may placed in or removed from your district. Do you ever offer trainings on that particular item and how it relates to chapter 203 and 204 of the City Charter and what the community boards' responsibility is in terms of applying the citywide statement of needs? Does anybody do any training with community boards to help them understand that process?

Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: The Manhattan Borough President's Office has not offered any training specific to the citywide statement of needs. However, I will take your suggestion back to Matthew Washington, the Deputy Borough President for Budget and Policy to see if we can offer a specific training around that. We do offer training on the role of community boards and developing the statement of district needs, but not on the citywide statement of needs in particular.

Jamie Rogers, Chair, CB 3: Thank you very much. This presentation's extremely helpful. I'm going to share it electronically once we get it from the BP's office with the rest of the board. I guess I have one comment and a question. The comment is that I think we as community boards deserve top billing. It is a matter of optics, but I think it's important. We have the first deadline. My question is that since our district needs statement is a little longer than the current word limit on the form so we actually have two – one we submit and one we put on our own website. Have you received any feedback on the word limit from other community boards?

Arundathi Amirapu, Team Leader, Department of City Planning: The first year we had a word limit we heard from District Managers in our feedback session that we needed to increase the word limit. We increased it by quite a lot and you're the first person in the second year, this year, that we have heard from who said it should be increased further. So we haven't heard anything from anyone else. What I will say is that if there is additional information that you want to add, you can attach it as a document to your submission. I will



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also say that agencies to whom we send the statements of district needs like the new format. I completely agree that, for your overarching needs statement that you should be able to articulate it to the furthest extent, so we have increased the word limit considerably. What I would do is go back, and if the word limit still doesn't work for you, let me know and we can work something out. However, in terms of agency specific needs, that is not something that we've heard.

John Murray, Chair, Land Use, Housing and Zoning, CB 5: After the Executive Budget, what is the mechanism for feedback for community boards?

Carolyn Hagerty, Senior Analyst, Office of Management and Budget: There is no formal community board feedback at that point, but discussions can still be had. This time is leading in to when district consultations are happening. It's kind of that weird time. I guess my answer would be this is when district consultations are starting to drum up and these are times when agencies provide you updates on what may be changing between the Executive and Adopted Budgets.

John Murray, Chair, Land Use, Housing and Zoning, Manhattan Community Board 5: So just to clarify, community boards would have to initiate dialogue to provide feedback?

Lester Siegel, Unit Head, Office of Management and Budget: After the presentation of the Executive Budget, the City Council holds hearings in May where community board members and the public can testify.

Carolyn Hagerty, Senior Analyst, Office of Management and Budget: The conversation between community boards and city agencies has to happen throughout the year. OMB set up meetings between boards and agencies – the borough consultations and each community board submits their own district needs statement and budget requests, but the borough consultations and community board submissions are just part of the larger process and ongoing dialogue.

Jesse Bodine, District Manager, CB 4: Can you explain the difference, if there is one between the initial responses from city agencies and the enhanced responses from the Office of Management and Budget?

Carolyn Hagerty, Senior Analyst, Office of Management and Budget: Often times the Office of Management and Budget will agree with agencies' responses. If an agency offers a vague response, then there is follow-up. As you mentioned with the Preliminary Budget, we've given agencies the ability to provide additional information on top of their formal response and these responses are emailed to community boards. The hope is that these responses will provide additional information that is specific to particular prioritized budget requests.

To speak of the weight of the enhanced responses versus the weight of agency responses, it may seem that the Office of Management and Budget response is more of a funding decision. The Office of Management and Budget's enhanced responses may be more straightforward



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and indicate that there is no funding for a request since the Office of Management and Budget's role is to provide oversight of the City of New York's budget. However, OMB does often agree with the agency response. The agencies know projects in greater detail and depth.

Lester Siegel, Unit Head, Office of Management and Budget: Just to add to that, the agencies have a fair amount of leeway in running themselves. The Office of Management and Budget's role is to make sure that agencies don't exceed their budgetary limitations and of course to reflect the Mayor's priorities. If those two things are met, the Office of Management and Budget usually agrees with the agency response. However, if an agency's budget will not allow for a budget request and that agency says it will allow for the request or if City Hall policy doesn't allow for it, then the Office of Management and Budget will contradict the agency's request.

Marie Winfield, Member, CB 11: So I have a question about the feedback on the online form itself. I know last year that there were a lot of suggestions. How much of the feedback and suggestions has been integrated into the form? My other question is about the written response from budget consultations. Are those published publically online? If not, can they be? Finally in terms of representations from agencies at borough consultations, how do you ensure that for every agency there is someone there who can answer questions on behalf of the agency. Specifically, last year, DOB sent a community liaison to the borough consultation and he was not able to answer any questions on behalf of the agency.

Arundathi Amirapu, Team Leader, DCP: We've been very proactive in soliciting feedback and this feedback can be separated out into five categories.

- Feedback on the structure of the platform itself, i.e. word limits – we've been able to accommodate almost all of the recommendations to the extent that the technology platform itself allows us to make changes
- Feedback on how the form is being used
- Feedback on training and support we (i.e. DCP and OMB) offer
- Feedback on agency response – DCP and MBB we've actually updated the way that agencies respond and added the enhanced responses – which Jesse alluded to earlier
- Feedback on the borough budget consultations – we've changed these as well. Now every district manager nominates someone to help put an agenda together for the borough budget consultations – we use an online platform to collect these agenda



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questions and ask agencies to submit written responses to these questions before the borough consultations

The written agency responses are not public and the borough budget consultations are not public meetings as we consider both the boards and the agencies to be agencies meeting among themselves. Another reason for that is that we are pushing for these agency responses for the board's sake so they have clear response to agenda questions. Before it was like, here's the agenda, we'll talk on it, we'll discuss it so this was our effort to get clearer responses.

Carolyn Hagerty, Senior Analyst, Office of Management and Budget: Regarding agency representation at the borough budget consultations, we have been working to make sure that each agency has a staff member who can speak on behalf of the agency and we continued to advocate for the presence of the highest level of decision makers possible. Not only should staff members who know these particular projects specific to the borough be present, but the decision makers at each agency should be in the room at the borough budget consultations. Some agencies are great and send commissioners and deputy commissioners. However, some agencies have continued to send community liaisons that cannot speak on behalf of the agency. I know that last year District Managers were taken aback that the Department of Buildings sent a community liaison and consequently worked with the Manhattan Borough President's Office to write a letter to the Department of Buildings. The Department of Buildings did respond to that letter and we are hopeful that they and other agencies will provide better representation. However, there is a limit to what we can do in our role and, thus far, we have reiterated community boards' and District Managers' concerns that agencies provide the highest levels of representation possible. It is an ongoing concern and one that we will continue to work on and advocate for, but it is always helpful to have boards, District Managers, and the Borough President advocate for the best representation possible from each city agency.

Jesse Bodine, District Manager, CB 4: Manhattan Community Board 3 mentioned that they had to create their own process and develop two district needs statements. I understand that you are limited by the platform. I think that platform limitations continue to be a significant issue for Manhattan community boards since many boards are doing double the amount of work. You guys are very good at responding and we do appreciate the work you have done for us. However, if the platform has significant limitations, then maybe the Manhattan community boards need to state in our prioritized budget requests that the City needs to put more money and resources into creating a more user-friendly platform because, until the platform is user-friendly, community boards will continue to do twice the amount of work. Manhattan Community Board 3 needs to go through this entire public process and then has to spend time putting it into the platform so they haven't been able to use the platform efficiently.



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Arundathi Amirapu, Team Leader, Department of City Planning: I'm not going to comment on the idea of making the submission platform a budget request, but the Department of City Planning and Office of Management and Budget have designed a submission platform for 59 Community Boards and we take feedback from those 59 community boards. We have heard from a lot of boards that did not have processes in place, that the submission platform has helped them to organize the way they collect inputs from their respective communities and to organize the ways in which they talk about issues so that it has streamlined the way that they think and communicate with their communities and city agencies. What we're also finding is that there are some boards in Manhattan that feel like they have to do things twice, largely because they've been doing this a certain way for a really long time. In your case, as community board chairs, you have to figure out what your community boards' respective needs are. However, in our case we have to building out a system that works well for all of the 59 community boards. We are working with you to make sure that the system works for your respective community boards, but we know that it also has to work well for all of the other community boards. So far, we've found that it has significantly improved the ways that a lot of the other boards have been operating.

Roberta Semer, Chair, CB 7: I know the person that has been using the platform has said that it is very labor intensive.

Arundathi Amirapu, Team Leader, Department of City Planning: We work with Penny Ryan a lot and I will say that Jesse Bodine has awesome ideas, many of which we have incorporated.

Anthony Notaro, Jr., Chair, CB 1: I just want to echo what Jesse was saying. We hope that you can help to make the platform more user-friendly. I don't know about other boards, but Manhattan Community Board 1 takes the month of August off. So, unless we're really working hard during the year – and we have lots of priorities, we have a short window of time in which to gather input from the community. Many community boards have their full board meetings at the end of the month and most boards only have September and October left so it can be a challenge. I hate to ask for more time to work on the district needs statement and prioritized budget requests, but, somehow, I think we need to work out a better schedule.

Roberta Semer, Chair, CB 7: What we did this year for the first time was, in April and May, we went to each of the standing committees and took a part of the full board meeting to work on the district needs. The standing committees will work on developing their portions of the district needs statement and report back to full board. In August, we'll have a small subcommittee that will finish writing everyone's portion of the district needs into a comprehensive district needs document.

Honorable Anthony Notaro, Jr., Chair, CB 1: That's a good idea.

Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: We'll take one or two more questions.



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Marie Winfield, Member, CB 11: Is the Borough President's Office going to do something similar to what they have done with the bylaws to see what the best practices would be? I know that the Department of City Planning has said that they were going to look at best practices, but some community boards do not have budget committees so it could be really helpful to have best practices that community boards could follow.

Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: You mean a process for determining district needs that's similar to the process we have created for bylaws? Yes. We're open to the idea of establishing best practices for district needs. However, it raises a lot of questions. First, in terms of how many board members have a password to input information into the form and to submit the form. Sometimes it's the only chairs, other times it is the committee chairs. All of these logistics are different for each community board. You've seen the slide that has the seven agency service areas and you might be thinking that these areas mirror committees, with the exception of SLA committees and personnel committees. How much your respective community boards' current committee structures align with the new district needs and budget requests process is something that I imagine each board will discuss independently. I think that we will definitely take the idea of exploring best practices for district needs and budget requests into consideration. Maybe we could have a meeting amongst ourselves just to formalize it like we did with the bylaws committee, which took a long time. We're still working on the bylaws.

Anthony Notaro, Jr., Chair, CB 1: Does it cause a problem if there are multiple people working on the submission?

Arundathi Amirapu, Team Leader, Department of City Planning: No. There's a save button. As long as each person save the changes, it is fine.

Anthony Notaro, Jr., Chair, CB 1: So will I see what changes others have made?

Arundathi Amirapu, Team Leader, Department of City Planning: Yes

Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: Since community boards vary so much in land area and also in terms of population, do you hear from community boards about the limit of twenty budget requests that they are harmful to them or arbitrary?

Lester Siegel, Unit Head, Office of Management and Budget: It's not a firm limit, it's a recommendation. Many boards have exceeded it. We would just caution that sometimes by submitting a lot of budget requests, you may overwhelm an agency in terms of their ability to review and respond to the requests. Agencies are given a deadline so that should be a consideration. This year the Department of Parks and Recreation received over 750 budget requests from the 59 community boards and they just had weeks to review and respond to them. Some boards have exceeded the 20 budget request limit, but we've passed along all the requests made to the agencies and expect the agencies to respond to them.



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Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: I thought you were going somewhere else with that because community boards in Manhattan are overachievers I thought that you were going to say you received 750 requests from Manhattan for DPR. I'm sorry.

Lester Siegel, Unit Head, Office of Management and Budget: If I got down to knowing the statistics at that level, borough by borough, it would be time for me to put in my papers.

Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: Thank you so much. The Manhattan Borough President's Office has been very supportive of the reforms that DCP and OMB have been doing around this. We held several focus groups for DMs and Chairs as DCP and OMB were creating the online application. We've held over 8 trainings on the 311 Community Portal, on ZOLA, on Census data – we had representatives from the Census to give training on how to use Census data, and, I don't know how many of you have heard, we're releasing our own online application called BoardStat around 311 requests that we want to be able to streamline it in a way that you can create charts and graphs to help you develop your narrative and input it into the form in a seamless way.

Vladimir Martinez and Deputy Borough President Matthew Washington gave trainings on the role of the community board in the development of district needs statements. So we've put a lot into this and we like a lot of the features that it has. Most particularly, we were concerned that when it was paper based that year after year certain requests were being made and they were being denied, summarily or there was no explanation for the denial, now it's organized in such a way that with dropdown menus it really disciplines you in terms of what requests you make in what agency and what program because before the menu, requests were made of agencies and programs that no longer existed. There's also a feature that allows for more transparency and accountability over time so that boards can

see the requests that have been denied for a decade or for several years and can see the percentage of the time that agencies requests are approved – all of this can be tracked now because of the electronic system. Although we still have to get used to this new system, because it is new, it requires a shift in some of the work, I think that the long term value add is promising. So that's why our office is very excited about the system and the changes that have been made.

### ***Borough President's Report***

Lucille Songhai, Director of Community Affairs: Good morning. On Sunday, we are hosting a Caregiving 101 Event at Fordham Law School. It is actually at capacity, but we have a waiting list and we would like to squeeze in as many community board members as possible. It will be from noon to 4pm and we are really excited about it. We've seen a lot of interest from caregivers looking for resources and techniques on how to support the people that they care for.

We put out our supermarket report last month. I hope folks have had an opportunity to read it. We mailed it to all community board members so you should have received a copy. If you



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would like additional copies of the report, please just let me know and we can drop some off. We also have put out an age friendly senior guide to the supermarket report. Please pick some up and take them back to your respective board offices and let us know if you need more copies.

Two members of our staff are leaving, Drew Lombardi, who is the Community Liaison for boards 3, 4, and 5, and Vladimir Martinez, who is our Budget Director, are leaving. Drew Lombardi is off to Paris to study Urban Planning at SciencesPo and Vladimir Martinez is off to CUNY Law School. I am currently interviewing for a new liaison for boards 3, 4, and 5. Both Drew Lombardi and Vladimir Martinez will be leaving at the end of this month. I ask District Managers and chairs for community boards 3, 4, and 5 to send me questions and concerns directly in the meantime since I will be managing his boards until a new liaison is hired. Hopefully, we will hire a new liaison by the end of August. Likewise, any budget questions may be directed to Deputy Borough President Matthew Washington until a new budget director is hired.

The Manhattan Borough President's Office will hold a meeting on the Garment Center. For folks that are interested, we will make sure that you know about it. The Manhattan Borough President's Office will also be hosting a Dominican Heritage Event and a Women's Equality Day Event in August and we will share more information regarding the dates, times, and locations in the near future. The Manhattan Borough President's Office has also formed a working group on Mount Sinai-Beth Israel, which is meeting monthly and is being led by our Transportation and Health Policy Analyst, David Dodge.

Of course, the Manhattan Borough President's Office is still working with BetaNYC folks to further refine BoardStat and BoardTrack. Meanwhile, BetaNYC is putting together a Steering Committee of community board members to solicit their input and recommendations so that the applications work for your boards. The Manhattan Borough President's Office will be sending out an email shortly about the Steering Committee to chairs. Chairs, we hope that you can share the email with members of your respective boards who are your technology point persons in the event that you are not the technology point person.

Every summer, the Manhattan Borough President's Office has a multitude of interns. We have approximately 100 this summer who are cycling in in three different sessions. They have been working on some really cool projects. After this meeting, they will be presenting their analysis of demographic information that we were able to gather from the community board application process. This will help our office as the Borough President recruits and selects community board members each year. I will check in with all the chairs and District Managers to see what each board is looking for in terms of membership, representation, and skill sets. Interns are also working on analyzing Manhattan's waterfront resources. They have split the waterfront into sections and they are taking stock of the resources available to youth as well as the ways in which we can help encourage youth to take stewardship of the waterfront. Finally, interns are working on gathering information to help



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facilitate the closure of Rikers Island. As always, if you need anything from us, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: The Manhattan Borough President's Office also hosted a community board leadership training symposium in June at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Just a note about our leadership trainings, they are great and the Manhattan Borough President's Office is happy to offer fifteen in-person trainings as well as our e-trainings, but they are only as great as the people who attend and participate in them.

I have to say that not as many community board members are availing themselves of these trainings as we would like. When we offer them, chairs should really make an effort to not only get the word out about them to board members, but chairs should also encourage board members to attend the trainings. Often when things don't happen the way that they should, community board members ask us if we offer trainings.

We do offer trainings, and, in the next few weeks, we will send out an email inviting you and your respective board members to attend an intensive training on parliamentary procedure and Roberts' Rules of Order. We will host it in our Northern Manhattan Office. We offer trainings on different days of the week and at different times and at both offices. Lucky for you, we do it all. We'll continue to offer different formats and times for our trainings.

We will be offering a parliamentary procedure training that is very specific to Manhattan Community Board 12 and then we will be offering trainings for the other boards. These trainings will have simulations and role plays of particular scenarios that might occur on community boards so that you and your members can learn these concepts more intuitively. We don't have the dates confirmed yet, but when we do, we will send them to you.

Honorable Terri Cude, Chair, CB 2: Will these parliamentary procedure trainings be live streamed or be recorded for those of us who may not be able to attend?

Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: No. We can discuss developing an online training of parliamentary procedure, but we have a relationship with the Metropolitan Association of Parliamentarians. They are the consultants that we contract with to conduct these parliamentary procedure trainings and there are intellectual property issues that we have to take into account.

### ***Chair Reports***

Anthony Notaro, Jr., Chair, CB 1: One of Manhattan Community Board 1's lost communities is Battery Park City. There was a seven member board, the Battery Park City Authority that managed the affairs of the whole community, collecting property taxes and ground rents from businesses. However, residents of Battery Park City were not allowed to serve on the Battery Park City Authority. Thanks to our State Senator Daniel Squadron, and two Assembly Members Yuh-line Niou, and Deborah Glick, legislation passed in both the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate that will allow for a minimum of two



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residents to serve on the Battery Park City Authority. This is a big win for the Battery Park City community and for Manhattan Community Board 1. The

Downtown Alliance, Manhattan Community Board 1's local business improvement district, has funded a study for a safety and mobility enhancements around the New York Stock Exchange. Right now, with the crush of tourists and the way in which security is set up, the area is both dangerous and uninviting to pedestrians. The safety and mobility enhancement report will be released later this year. In addition, the New York City Department of Transportation has approved a traffic study for most of Lower Manhattan, which has a historic street grid that is not easy to navigate. However, because much of the area has undergone conversion from commercial office space to residential units and tourism has increased, traffic and sanitation have become major problems.

Terri Cude, Chair, CB 2: Rather than give a report, I will ask for some help. As I have reported in the past, Manhattan Community Board 2 has been overwhelmed by street crowds and pop-up shops and events. A recent pop-up event of screaming kids shut down a narrow eight block area. I have video. I don't know if other boards are being affected by these events. For example, if there is a concert with a famous person in a public area, it can cause a lock up of street grids. These events are not illegal. We are talking with the Street Activity Permitting Office and to our Council Members about potential legislation. However, people have the right to assemble. Do they have a right to completely close down street grids, pack in areas so that people cannot leave their homes, or overwhelm the NYPD? So, if anybody else is having problems with street crowds, I'd like to work with you because there is strength in numbers against numbers.

John Lynch, First Vice Chair, CB 10: Are these purely commercial events?

Honorable Terri Cude, Chair, CB 2: They are commercial. We have commercial pop-up stores in congested areas with product drops and/or celebrity appearances and concerts. The most recent one was Logan Paul, which I think only one of us knows. The precinct is doing what they can and there are barricades set up, but we need support for legislation. I wanted to see if other boards have these or if this is one of the joys of SoHo, NoHo, and Little Italy and we our communities are victims of their own success and charm. Boards 2 through 6, which have borders on 14<sup>th</sup> Street, will be affected by the L train shutdown. I'd like to create a task force with the inclusion of Boards 3, 4, 5 and 6 because we are all facing the same issues in light of the proposed shut down.

Jessica Mates, Chief of Staff: Regarding the L train, I would talk to our Transportation and Health Policy Analyst David Dodge, has been working on it and has helped our office to host and organize working groups/information and feedback sessions with stakeholders. I would suggest working with and reaching out to him.

Lucille Songhai, Director of Community Affairs: I'll connect you to each other.



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Jamie Rogers, Chair, CB 3: Manhattan Community Board 3 has spent most of July working on our Statement of District Needs, which is what we do every year. I want to give a shout out to all the members who have been working extremely hard to craft it as well as our district office which works tirelessly to pull all of the thoughts together into coherent sentences. Hopefully we will approve our Statement of District Needs on Tuesday and publish it thereafter. Manhattan Community Board 3 had an election last month and I was reelected so I am here for a while longer.

Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: Congratulations.

Jamie Rogers, Chair, CB 3: Thank you. We also had the first meeting of our Chinatown Neighborhood Planning Subcommittee of our Land Use Committee that is devoted to working with the city and stakeholders to craft a neighborhood zoning plan. Of course Manhattan Community Board 3 will be working with Manhattan Community Board 1 and Manhattan Community Board 2 on this since it overlaps with them. Of course, Manhattan Community Board 3 is open to collaborating with other boards on issues of shared concern like the L-train.

Alan Oster, Co-Chair, Arts, Education, and Street Life Committee, CB 4: We've been working on Block 675, which incorporates the area between 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues and abuts the Lincoln Tunnel. We reviewed the Environmental Impact Study for the block and made recommendations to the City on it. An RFP for the Port Authority planning process was recently released and we met with the Port Authority recently on it. We're continuing to work to get this issue resolved. Our affordable housing plan is being revised. The increase in bicycle fatalities has been a big concern as has tour buses on residential streets and 14<sup>th</sup> streets due to changes in traffic patterns. Our Transportation Committee Chair Christine Berthet met with DOT regarding these issues.

John Murray, Chair, Land Use Housing and Zoning Committee, CB 5: has been working several years on East Midtown Rezoning. The process is coming to a close the New York City Council will vote on it on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Manhattan Community Board 5 will present the City Council its full recommendation. Manhattan Community Board 5 met with Council Member Garodnick as the last negotiations are taking place. There will a be committee in charge of dispensing public use funds. There will be five mayoral appointees and four community members on the commission.

Our request was that one of the community members has to be in partnership with the five mayoral appointees or that the makeup of the commission is changed so that the community members' priorities and allocations for the public use funds cannot be overridden by the five mayoral appointees. With the plan, each project would be approved in a vacuum. However, with the proliferation of super tall buildings, Community Board 5 believes that light and air should be considered in concert with other proposed developments in a formal process. Manhattan Community Board 5 has been working with Community Board 4 and the Garment Center Steering Committee to engage in a dialogue with stakeholders as the core of the Garment Center should be protected as the New York



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City Economic Development Corporation examines moving many of the Garment Center manufacturers to Sunset Park. There has been a lot of dialogue so far. There are two more meetings of the Garment Center Steering Committee and a public meeting to come as well.

Manhattan Community Board 5 formed a study group to evaluate buildings along the 57<sup>th</sup> Street corridor to recommendation to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for landmark status. This came after a rapid demolition of a building that may have been eligible for calendaring by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Manhattan Community Board 5 made ten recommendations for calendaring to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. We thank the Borough President for her letter and advocacy in support of landmarking and preserving 316 Fifth Avenue, which is named the Kaskel & Kaskel building. Demolition permits were filed for the building and it is as-of-right to demolish it until it is calendared by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

We're requesting the DOT study Columbus Circle traffic. There have been several accidents. It's not safe. It happens to be a conduit for people who are going East to West and North to South travel through. We requested that DOT look at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn as an example of how to make it work. It's somewhat convoluted, but it has proven to be a success.

The Palace Theatre at 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Seventh Avenue is currently undergoing substantial renovations to lift the theatre by 30 feet and realign it and its theatre, hotel and retail entrances, as well as it's loading areas to allow for better pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic flow.

Claude Winfield, First Vice Chair, CB 6: I'll just talk briefly on three items. Community Board 6 had a special full board meeting in June to pass a resolution on a zoning text amendment for Sutton Place which deals with mid-block buildings and supertall buildings. It was pushed by Council Member Ben Kallos. An application was filed by the East River Fifties Alliance, Council Member Garodnick and the Borough President. We passed a resolution on June 27<sup>th</sup> in support of the proposed changes that they recommended so we had two full board meetings in the month of June. We were surprised by the siting of a Safe Haven and we weren't properly notified. We had a number of meetings and discussions with DHS and BRC.

On July 12<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting for community stakeholders and invited all of the neighborhood and block associations, the Borough President's Office and several elected officials Assembly Member Kavanagh, Council Member Mendez, and Council Member Garodnick. The proposed siting for the Safe Haven is on 17<sup>th</sup> Street, adjacent to Beth Israel. It is actually Beth Israel's property. We do have some concerns about it. It doesn't current meet ADA standards. An elevator must be repaired before residents can move in and their proposed move-in date was July 1<sup>st</sup> so that is an issue that we will be dealing with over the summer.



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The last issue is we've been in discussions for several years with the Big U regarding the East Side Resiliency Project from Montgomery Street to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. I requested that the resiliency project go up to 25<sup>th</sup> Street since over \$3 million was invested in the expansion of Asser Levy Park. We closed down 25<sup>th</sup> Street and added park area. They initially agreed to look at this proposed modification to 25<sup>th</sup> Street, but now they want to bring the resiliency project to 24<sup>th</sup> Street and tie it into the Veterans' Hospital which just did a flood wall so we are in ongoing negotiations with them to make sure that the park is not left vulnerable to flooding since it is in the 100 year floodplain. If they don't bring the wall to 25<sup>th</sup> Street, then the park could be totally flooded. They have said that they could plant trees and easily repair it if it is flooded, but our concern is keeping it the way it is. We actually alienated Robert Moses Park in order to do the expansion of Asser Levy Park so we don't want to lose the park.

Lucille Songhai, Director of Community Affairs: I just wanted to follow up with what you were saying around the safe haven siting. We have had conversations with the Department of Homeless Services and we work really closely with the Human Resources Administration and the Department of Homeless Services and with Heidi Schmidt in particular. The Department of Homeless Services appears to have a bit of an archaic way in which they notify folks about the siting of shelters, which is something that they promised us they would look into improving so that instead of sending it to random city agency representatives, as they currently do, that they are sending notifications to me and making sure that for the community boards that they are notifying the chairs and district managers. According to the law, they actually don't have to do this. However, I think that Department of Homeless Services has recognized that, with the Safe Haven siting on 17<sup>th</sup> Street, they want to work with the community and be good community partners by making sure that any issues that need to be addressed are addressed in an open and transparent way. I really encourage you, as you are talking with Heidi Schmidt, to reinforce that if there is going to be a shelter siting in your community district that that this knowledge is shared with the community board directly and in advance of the siting. We, on our part, will certainly be pushing for that.

Claude Winfield, First Vice Chair, CB 6: What comes into play is fair share and that goes back to my original question about the Citywide Statement of Needs and Chapter 203 and 204 of the City Charter. Community boards should be cognizant of the Citywide Statement of Needs and Chapters 203 and 204 of the City Charter.

Roberta Semer, Chair, CB 7: Thanks to Manhattan Community Boards 1, 2, and 3, Manhattan Community Board 7 is creating secondary street naming guidelines. We're concerned about the supertalls. We have a resolution asking the Department of Transportation to work with Community Boards 4 and 5 on Columbus Circle. Community Board 7 has also asked that Frederick Douglass Circle be made safer and that the bike line on 110<sup>th</sup> Street be a protected bike lane. Regarding the shelter issue, the Department of Homeless Services had a meeting last Thursday with community boards and block associations where we were divided into the four different boroughs. Manhattan Community Boards and block associations worked with Heidi Schmidt, and we all came up with similar recommendations, namely more



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transparency, earlier notification of shelter sitings, and support in setting up community advisory boards for shelters.

Debbie Teitelbaum, Second Vice Chair, CB 8: Last night, Manhattan Community Board 8 supported the changes that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development made regarding inclusionary housing requiring that affordable housing stay within the community district (instead of allowing affordable housing to be placed outside of the community district within 10 blocks of the community district). Manhattan Community Board 8 has worked to promote affordable and inclusionary housing within its community district. Manhattan Community Board 8 has also had lengthy conversations about preserving historic buildings and blocks. The Esplanade around 90<sup>th</sup> Street is falling down so Manhattan Community Board 8 is working to get funding to repair it. Manhattan Community Board 8 Chair Jim Clynes also formed a Veterans Committee with member David Menegon which met for the first time this month, which I thought was very exciting. The City Council and the Mayor are considering legislation to include veterans in employment non-discrimination law and Community Board 8 is in favor of this.

Lucille Songhai, Director of Community Affairs: I know that there was a meeting regarding the Esplanade with Council Member Kallos and Congresswoman Maloney scheduled for 4pm today that was cancelled so if anyone was planning on going it will be rescheduled. Congratulations to Community Board 8 on the formation of the new Veterans Committee. The gentleman who helped form the Veterans Committee with Chair Clynes also reached out to our office to see if other boards would be interested in starting Veterans committees or task forces. We will be sending out a letter introducing the work that they have been doing so please be on the lookout.

Anthony Notaro, Jr., Chair, CB 1: Just to add to that, Manhattan Community Board 1 is doing some reorganization and we have established a Health and Human Services Committee and one of our members suggested incorporating Veterans' concerns and that is on our agenda.

Ken Miles, Member, CB 9: Manhattan Community Board 9 and Manhattan Community Board 10 have been invited to collaborate in submitting a request for proposals for next-generation wireless with academic institutions and the City of New York. We're discussing next steps and thoughts and where we go with this. We're looking at opportunities since they are targeting Harlem and West Harlem as a focus area. We've been working with Community Board 7 on a NYCHA housing forum. We're also working on the Broadway coalition and thinking about the Broadway corridor. The Manhattan Borough President's Storefront Vacancy Report came out and it showed an alarming trend so we're figuring out how to collaborate on addressing it. We've engaged with the new superintendent for the district so the Youth Education and Libraries Committee has been thinking about what it can do in collaboration. Our Housing Land Use and Zoning Committee has been meeting over the summer to discuss issues that are critical to the district. Finally, the bylaw revisions are being prepared for the September full board meeting.



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John Lynch, First Vice Chair, CB 10: Over the past few months, Manhattan Community Board 10 has been involved in an initiative to prevent and condemn the use of the term SoHa to refer to and market South Harlem (between 110<sup>th</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> Streets). It's been kicking around for about ten years. However, when a large, national real estate company moved to the neighborhood and called themselves the SoHa team in big red letters on their storefront, our board member Danni Tyson brought it to our attention. Our Economic Development Committee took up the issue and drafted a strong resolution condemning the use of SoHa and we held a rally and press conference thinking that no one would show up, but were happily surprised when Comptroller Stringer showed up. He had condemned the use of SoHa when he was Manhattan Borough President ten years ago, State Senator Brian Benjamin (our former chair) was there, there was a large turnout from the faith-based community, and the media was there. The real estate company, which had previously ignored Community Board 10, took down the SoHa sign. The story was reported on NPR's All Things Considered, in the New York Times, there was a letter to the editor in the New York Times today. Community Board 10 has had interviewed requests from Russian T.V., Philadelphia T.V., Los Angeles T.V., so it's kind of a win. Community Board 10 wants to use the energy and support to sponsor forums and discussions asking and answering the question that "if Harlem is not SoHa, what is Harlem?" We know that there have been changes in the Harlem community, but we want to discuss what these changes mean and what can we do going forward. Whole Foods opens tomorrow in Harlem on 125<sup>th</sup> Street and Lenox Avenue.

Chair Harris and I met with their general manager and their outreach person last week. We've been speaking with Whole Foods as it has prepared to open, and learned that they will be bring 300 jobs to the community. Apparently, half of these jobs are being filled with existing employees who have requested a transfer to be closer to their homes. They will also have upward of 30 local Harlem vendors with products in the store. These vendors will have someone who is dedicated to helping to guide them in their entrepreneurship. Whole Foods has said publically that the 125<sup>h</sup> Street store will be the lowest priced Whole Foods. Apparently, Starbucks did this when they first opened in Harlem.

Recently, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney contacted the Economic Development Chairs of Manhattan Community Boards 10 and 11 because for years she has been working to bring pandas to New York City and she wants to house them in Central Park's Muir and Manhattan Community Boards 10 and 11 abut Central Park. According to Congresswoman Maloney, everyone loves the project, the business community is throwing money for it, and the Chinese government is on board and ready to ship pandas to New York, and I.M. Pei has designed the panda enclosure.

Community Boards 10 and 11 will have a joint meeting this summer to address this project. There are questions and the devil is in the details. From the amount of space the enclosure will occupy, to the potential loss of existing amenities in Central Park, to the jobs that it will create and whether these jobs will be available to the local community. The Bronx Zoo is also interested so there may be a political fight there. There's some issue as to whether the Bronx Zoo can handle this and apparently revenue from the Central Park Zoo goes to the



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City of New York whereas revenue from the Bronx Zoo goes to the World Wildlife Conservation Fund so we want Panda jobs and money to stay in Harlem.

As my colleague from Manhattan Community Board 9 mentioned, we will be speaking with Manhattan Community Board 9 and Columbia and others on the Next Generation WiFi. Of course the question will be who will benefit and who will be profiting from it and making sure that the community is among those who benefit.

Finally, Harlem Week begins in August. It's really Harlem Month. The kickoff event will be at Gracie Mansion on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and there will be many events, street fairs, fun runs, and various things celebrating Harlem.

A representative from CB 11 was not present to provide a report.

Richard Lewis, First Vice Chair, CB 12: We've had a very busy summer and a busy July. There are three main issues we are dealing with, zoning, transportation, and updating our website. We received a ULURP for Seaman Avenue rezoning. We held a public hearing on July 13<sup>th</sup>. The applicant requested an Upzoning from an R72 to an R8A. There were some difficulties with the proposal. It would block views and windows of adjoining properties. Commissioner Lago said that many things in the proposal were not applicable and suggested that it should not be approved. A resolution opposing this rezoning application passed unanimously at the public hearing where 160 residents showed up and a committee of the whole on the 18<sup>th</sup> approved the resolution.

We expect that there will be more ULURPs and rezonings during this busy summer. The Inwood NYC update was given to us at the public hearing, but there was no information was given on the Inwood Library rezoning. In terms of transportation, Community Board 12 has passed resolutions in support of ferry service and Amtrak and in view of the fire at 168<sup>th</sup> Street and the subway derailment in CB 9 we have been a little bit ahead of the subway developments in requesting resources for mass transit.

We're also getting our elevators at the 168<sup>th</sup> Street Station redone, which has been a long haul effort. We also have been requesting that the Port Authority repair the roadways over the Trans-Manhattan Expressway – this is six streets from Broadway to Amsterdam Avenue that are falling apart. It's very difficult because you can't do milling because of the highway underneath. The Port Authority has this in their plans for 2019 to 2022, but that is much too late. We did have a contact at the small business forum hosted by Congressman Espaillat where we brought that up to them and they did respond recently.

There has to be a relationship between the Department of Transportation and the Port Authority and specialized equipment has to be used to repair these roadways. There will be a transportation summit this Saturday sponsored by Congressman Espaillat and Manhattan Community Board 12's Facebook and website will have more information on this soon.



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We are updating our website. We are seriously concerned about it. There's a lot of detail. We'd like to make sure that it's done on a level that people can very easily get detailed information. It's a big project. We started a couple of months ago and we hope to be up and running with our new website in the fall if not sooner than that.

Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: While you are creating your new website, please make sure that the current website still has the agendas and minutes, particularly because of the Inwood Library rezoning. We do receive phone calls about it.

Richard Lewis, First Vice Chair, CB12: When we transfer the material to the new website, some of it will be updated and we will preserve resolutions, minutes, and agendas from previous board meetings. I will say that I created a special archives section because there's no reason for twenty years of resolutions, minutes, and agendas to be on one webpage. They should be in some kind of a reasonable and indexable format. The new website will have more images and graphics, more maps, and more links to other features.

Ken Miles, Member, CB 9: If you're looking for a fantastic model, Manhattan Community Board 9's website is a pretty good place to start.

Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President: In terms of bylaws and websites, I know a lot of community boards have made progress. The Manhattan Borough President's Office want to continue to provide technical assistance to community boards and has done a lot around websites and bylaws, but we just haven't gotten this technical assistance to community boards yet. Before community boards begin adopting new websites and bylaws, we want to make sure that you have an opportunity to at least review what our office has been working on for several years.

***No Council Member Reports were given. The July 20, 2017 Borough Board meeting was adjourned.***