

**BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR THE FY2018 NYC EXPENSE BUDGET  
November 1, 2016**

**Office of Management and Budget**

**1. Increase Community Board budgets.**

Community boards have not received a budget increase for non-personnel costs in more than twelve years. Meanwhile, costs and demands for services have increased dramatically. In 2014, DC37 agreed to a contract that modestly increases salaries of its members. Following the usual pattern, salaries of other unions and management will increase by the same amounts as DC37's. Board budgets, which are currently baselined at \$233,911, must be increased to reflect increasing OTPS costs.

**Department of Parks & Recreation**

**2. Solar trash compactors for Verdi Park, 72<sup>nd</sup> -73<sup>rd</sup> Streets at Broadway/Amsterdam Avenue \$21K**

Verdi Park is overrun with rats. It has an extremely high ratio of food consumption to square footage. Its benches attract a large number of homeless people, and its current plantings facilitate the establishment of rat burrows. Then-Council Member Brewer allocated \$50,000 in capital funds several years ago for the purchase of 10 solar trash compactors for Verdi Park, but those funds were never deployed. Rather, they were held to be deployed as partial funding for a substantial reconstruction of Verdi Park. In the meantime, the unit cost of this type of equipment has come down, and installation of these units has been successful in, for example, Theodore Roosevelt Park. Six solar compactors purchased immediately as expense budget items at approximately \$3500 per unit would substantially improve the rat situation in Verdi Park, without regard to other future capital renovations also addressed to reducing the rat infestation.

**Department of Sanitation**

**3. Funding for a dedicated collection truck to service the street recycling cans.**

Green and blue recycling cans have been added to street corners in MCD7. DSNY services them once a week. In budget consultations, DSNY said they do not have funds for additional service. The recycling is overflowing and the cans are left open by people collecting cans. MCD7 is the pilot for this program, which is not working well given the lack of service. Service is needed at least 3 times a week, if not daily.

**NYC Police Department**

**4. Restoration of the number of police officers in precincts and PSAs.**

The number of uniformed officers in our precincts and housing developments was modestly increased in FY2016. CB7 seeks 15 uniformed patrol officers to enforce traffic regulations in CD7 and restoration of the overall headcount to 50,000 and the number of uniformed patrol officers to 40,000, which would fully staff Vision Zero, community policing, sector patrols, enforcement of traffic and bicycle regulations, and special units.

**NYC Housing Authority**

**5. Additional funds for skilled trades personnel and resident skilled trades training at Amsterdam Houses, Frederick Douglass Houses, Wise Towers Consolidated and DeHostos.**

NYCHA developments in CD7 have a significant backlog of repair requests in residents' apartments. Repairs are made when there are enough of them to warrant the issuance of a contract. Having skilled trades (plumbers, electricians, carpenters) do the work at these developments would result in timely repairs, a reduction of the backlogs and increased well-being for the residents. Furthermore, more resources need to be put into training NYCHA residents to fill the jobs that should be directed at addressing the backlog of repair requests

**Department of Parks & Recreation**

**6. Pest control personnel.**

**\$50K**

Parks has only two exterminators for all of Manhattan. The rodent population in parks has exploded in recent years. In District 7, Verdi Square, Strauss, Theodore Roosevelt and Riverside Parks, the Broadway Malls, and several playgrounds have had extreme rodent infestations. An additional exterminator for Manhattan would allow Parks to address infestations through a variety of systematic and sustainable measures.

**Department of Youth & Community Development**

**7. Maintain and increase baseline funding for after-school and OST programs in public schools and in neighborhood CBOs in MCD7.**

Afterschool programs ensure that children are safe in the hours between the end of school and the end of their families' work day, when they would otherwise be most vulnerable, and provide opportunities for remedial instruction, enrichment, and safe play. Certain of these same programs continue to provide these same safe and affirming environments during school breaks in the summer.

While the FY15 purported to baseline funding for these programs at a sustainable level, funding for these programs was slashed between the release of the Mayor's Preliminary and Executive Budget, after programs had made placements in reliance on the baselining and preliminary budget line items. The funds were eventually restored, but the need for continued vigilance to protect these crucial programs cannot be overstated as baselining these programs allows service providers to plan in a rational manner to meet these important needs, and allows families to plan work, education and other adult schedules with confidence.

Even with these baseline funds, there are children who remain without these essential services. NYPD specialists have advised CB7 that an effective means to address increased gang and "crew" activity, especially in NYCHA campuses and adjacent parks and playgrounds, would be to have safe places for youth and teens to meet and spend time outside the influence of gang activity. DYCD has indicated that the most effective way to meet those needs would be through additional capacity at "Beacon" programs. Therefore, CB7 calls for increased funding for Beacon OST programs, specifically aimed at presenting a viable alternative to gang and crew activity in our District and those with similar issues.

**Human Resources Administration**

**8. Funding for hunger - food insecurity outreach**

HRA administers \$3 billion in federal money for SNAP, which does not go through city budget. Since 2012 the number of applications has been down, with a reduction of 6% in 2014. The new Foodhelp.nyc program reaches out through CBOs and kiosks around town to enroll SNAP (Food Stamp) recipients, especially seniors and legal immigrants. Single adults without dependents now qualify for SNAP, and fingerprinting is no longer necessary. Faith based food pantries and community kitchens continue to feed the homeless with volunteer help and funding from their congregants and community. Community kitchens such as WSCAH also administer SNAP outreach, job training, and government funded benefits.

**Department of Environmental Protection**

**9. Dedicated enforcement staff for anti-idling law.**

There is currently no routine enforcement of the anti-idling law, and only spotty and largely unsuccessful enforcement of specific targeted violations. Drivers of commercial and individual private motor vehicles park at our curbs and run their motors continuously with impunity. The NYC idling law is intended to reduce pollution that harms our health. It also is addressed to limiting the use of non-renewable fossil fuels. The Upper West Side is particularly vulnerable to asthma and other health problems from pollution because of our high population density and the continued use of polluting fossil fuels for heating our buildings. DEP has no funds budgeted for enforcement of the anti-idling law, and similarly neither the NYPD nor Traffic Enforcement engages in routine enforcement nor responds to individual, specific complaints. 311 complaints are not followed up on, and the 311 system is not suited to addressing this problem.

**Administration for Children's Services**

**10. Maintain Funding for Baselined Early Learn Programs, including UPK and Head Start**

Adequate child care is a necessity for working families. The Mayor's initiative to expand all-day pre-K, together with expanded Head Start programming, is funded under the Early Learn initiative, are proven drivers of achievement in school for years to come as well as stability for working families.

It is essential that the funding for these programs, newly baselined in FY15, continue at least at the current programming levels to deliver both the services families need as well as certainty essential to good planning by service providers, families and ancillary services.

In addition, many of ACS's programs are funded on a district-wide allocation based on indicia of need on a Census tract or zip code basis that continues to leave pockets of significant unmet need in our District for publicly-funded child care, pre-K and Head Start. Either an overall funding increase to the baseline, or reform of the allocation system, is needed to ensure those with equivalent needs have equivalent access to programs and services.

**Department of Parks & Recreation**

**11. Park Enforcement Personnel for Riverside Park and District 7.**

**\$625K**

Community District 7 is covered by the eight city funded PEP that report out of North Meadow in Central Park. These PEP cover both the east and west sides of Manhattan from 59<sup>th</sup> Street to 115<sup>th</sup> Streets, and Riverside Park. They also help cover other calls that fixed post officers (there are ten fixed post officers in Central Park funded by the Central Park Conservancy) in Central Park cannot cover. In addition four fixed-post officers, who are paid for under dedicated funding, patrol Riverside Park South and are available in Riverside Park only for emergency conditions.

No PEP officers are available to be assigned to patrol on regular beats in our District parks for quality of life and other offenses. The need for expanded deployment of PEP officers at Columbus Circle has further taxed these resources. An additional eight officers and a sergeant (\$60K per officer, more for a sergeant) for Manhattan would increase safety and help address graffiti and other vandalism, littering, skateboarding, homeless, alcohol, off-leash, smoking, motor idling and other conditions throughout Riverside Park and in district parks and playgrounds on a steady basis.

**Department for the Aging**

**12. Meals on Wheels.**

Increase funding for Meals on Wheels for the growing number of homebound elderly. This saves money by helping seniors age in place.

**Department of Parks & Recreation**

**13. Permanent staffing for Districts #7 and #14 (Riverside Park).**

Parks full-time workforce is responsible for park maintenance and cleanliness. While the FY15 budget provided funding for increased staff (Associate Park Service Workers, City Parks Workers, and Gardeners), additional funds are needed to rebuild the agency's permanent, year-round workforce, which has been substantially reduced because of budget cuts from its former baseline.

**Department of Transportation**

**14. Thermoplastic street markings.**

With many lane markings fading, as well as lane alignments shifting, it is vitally important for safety that the Department of Transportation have the requisite funds in their budget for painting and maintaining lane markings, pedestrian crossings, and no-parking zones.

**New York Public Library**

**15. Restoration of Staff and Operating Budget**

**appx \$19M**

While the operation of branch and research libraries have been stabilized, and 6-day service at most locations has been restored, after the drastic cuts to the NYPL operating budget in prior years, those restorations were made by the City Council, and were not baselined. In addition, only in the last one- to two years have branches begun to have sufficient budget room to begin to replace the professional staff lost to reductions and attrition during the lean years. It is therefore critical that the lifeline that branch libraries represent to the entire community, from early childhood, struggling students, teens needing a safe environment outside school time, and adults learning skills or looking for work, that this funding be fully restored and baselined so that effective long-term planning can ensure these essential services are available to all.

**Department of Youth & Community Development**

**16. Increase Funding in order to Maintain and Increase the number of Positions Available through the Summer Youth Employment Program.**

Summer Youth Employment Programs serve several compelling needs. They provide alternatives to gang influence for at-risk youth; provide models and pathways to employment; develop positive work habits and self-esteem; and virtually every dollar earned is spent in the community. In addition, without the availability of this work force, community-based organizations serving children and youth cannot meet their adult-to-child ratios, making those programs less effective. SYEP has finally emerged from a 5-year period in which serial budget cuts all but decimated the program. Thanks to renewed and baselined funding, over 50,000 youth were included in SYEP in the summers of 2014 and 2015.

Even with the recent restorations, over 100,000 applicants in Summer 2014 (FY15) and Summer 2015 (FY16) were turned away. Given the multi-lateral benefits of this program, additional funding on SYEP is a wise investment. The recent, long-overdue increase in the minimum wage will result in the current level of funding being insufficient to maintain the current number of SYEP positions without commensurate increases. CB7 believes that it is necessary to increase funding at least so that staffing can be maintained at least at FY16 levels, and should be expanded so that additional staff positions can be created in FY18.

**Department of Parks & Recreation**

**17. Playground Associates**

**appx \$9,150 per assistant**

Six playground assistants would provide valuable programming and supervision for children, assist with park maintenance and provide a safety presence from July through Labor Day in Bloomingdale Playground (West 104<sup>th</sup>/Amsterdam), Frederick Douglass Playground (West 100<sup>th</sup>/Amsterdam), Happy Warrior Playground (West 98<sup>th</sup>/Amsterdam), Sol Bloom Playground (West 91<sup>st</sup>/Columbus), Tecumseh Playground (West 77<sup>th</sup>/Amsterdam), Bennerson Playground (West 64<sup>th</sup>/Amsterdam Houses), Neufeld Playground (West 76<sup>th</sup>/Riverside Park), and Dinosaur Playground (West 97<sup>th</sup>/Riverside Park).

**Department of Parks & Recreation**

**18. Staff for Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center (West 60<sup>th</sup> Street.)**

Reinstate two playground associates and two recreation specialists to run various programs, including programs for teens and adult fitness. Attrition policies resulted in the elimination of these staff lines and cuts in programming. It is essential that this new and thriving center be fully staffed. (FY16#14;FY17#21)

**Department of Health & Mental Hygiene**

**19. Mental Health Training**

**\$11K**

William F. Ryan Community Health Center is offering Mental Health First Aid training for community to learn how to listen and lead people with emotional problems to help. Books and a trainer from the National Council on Behavioral Health will cost \$1100 for a full day or two half day class of 20.

**Department of Sanitation**

**20. Funding for additional basket service at night and on weekends and holidays.**

CD7's 1,000 litter baskets are never empty – and often they are overflowing. DSNY cut a Sunday basket truck, making it impossible to service all of the district's baskets. Additional basket service is needed from 4PM to midnight on Sundays and from midnight to 8AM on weekdays. The current service helps keep streets and sidewalks clean, with fewer incidents of rodent infestation and clogged catch basins and street drains, and reduces floatables in the Hudson River. Additional service on the night shift, weekends and holidays would improve conditions when thousands of tourists are in the district

**Department of Parks & Recreation**

**21. Street Tree Pruning and Stump Removal**

**\$ TBD**

DPR has more than 8,400 street trees in District 7. This does not include the trees in Central and Riverside Parks. Many of these street trees have dead branches; most have not been trimmed for a long time. Funding for emergency pruning and a 10-year pruning cycle would make it possible for Parks to respond more rapidly to requests for tree pruning and stump removal, and would reduce safety concerns.

**Department of Parks & Recreation**

**22. Street Tree Bed Maintenance**

**\$ TBD**

DPR has more than 8,400 street trees in District 7. This does not include the trees in Central and Riverside Parks. While DPR looks to adjacent building owners to maintain, including voluntary plantings, the beds of street trees, DPR itself does not have any service to maintain the tree beds. In many tree beds, the soil becomes so compacted that water and air cannot reach the tree roots. Parks planted the last of One Million Trees in October of 2015, and it should have a service that assures that this major investment will thrive. A program in MCD7 addressed, at a minimum, to maximizing the DPR partnership with private neighbors, would demonstrate the importance of tree stewardship; the diversion of rain water away from sidewalks and sewers; and the value of disruption of rat burrows.

**Department of Homeless Services**

**23. NY/NY4**

City and State need to fund together NY/NY4 to provide more supportive housing, especially permanent supportive housing, with long term funding for support services.

People are homeless due to disabilities requiring support services or financial difficulties that require monetary and employment help. Supportive housing is by far the most successful way to end homelessness for individuals and families living with physical and mental disabilities and other challenges. Providing housing first, gets homeless people back on their feet and allows them to pull their lives together more quickly. Research has shown a 50% decrease in alcoholism when homeless are housed. However, there is not nearly enough supply to meet the record need, and the current City-State supportive housing production initiative, the New York/New York III Agreement (NY/NY III), is expiring.

**Department of Education**

**24. Physical Fitness**

**\$110K**

Regular physical fitness is acknowledged as necessary for both physical and mental well-being. Due to overcrowding and scheduling changes around curriculum pressures and testing, schools have reduced gym classes and recess time. Most school playgrounds operated by the Dept. of Education are locked after the school day because there is no staff to supervise them. It is recommended that two school playgrounds in the CB 7 district receive funding of \$55K for personnel allowing the playgrounds to remain open.

**Department of Parks & Recreation**

**25. Synthetic Turf Field Maintenance Crew**

**\$330K**

Establish a crew to repair and maintain the six synthetic turf fields in Community District 7. DPR's synthetic turf installations experience heavy use throughout the year, as well as the effects of severe winters. These funds would allow DPR to contract for regular service to repair and maintain these synthetic surfaces, in order to extend their useful lives and prevent injuries to the youth and adults who use them. \$50,000-\$55,000 for OTPS costs.

**Department of Parks & Recreation**

**26. Synthetic Turf Field Installations**

**\$250K**

Provide funds to purchase materials so that Parks staff can install synthetic turf fields, as was done last year at the Lions Gate Field in Sara D. Roosevelt Park. Installation by Parks staff has the potential to cost significantly less than installation by private contractors.

**Human Rights Commission**

**27. Accessibility.**

Compliance with the ADA needs to be monitored. All West Side residents should be able to enjoy its resources. All agencies should have staff insuring that:

- Traffic lights should reflect the pace at which the elderly and disabled are able to move. They should also alert the visually handicapped to red lights. DOT
- Stores and public buildings should be accessible to wheelchairs. CHR
- ADA compliance needs to be enforced. DOB
- Resources for seniors and the disabled should be widely publicized. DFTA DOH
- Playgrounds in schools and parks should include facilities for the disabled. DOE

**Department of Parks & Recreation**

**28. Inclusive Playgrounds**

Playgrounds in schools and parks should consider children with disabilities in planning and building. Funding is needed to design play space that is inclusive, not just accessible.

**Department of Information, Technology & Telecommunications**

**29. Data Integration/Accessibility**

**\$2M**

Since passage of the open data law in 2012, New York City agencies are now required to make data relevant to the public available online. The potential to use this data to inform public policy is enormous. However, much of the data is not in searchable format, nor can it be combined effectively with data from other departments. CB7 would like funds allocated to update and integrate data so it is searchable and useful in identifying trends and analyzing city policy.

**Department of Transportation**

**30. Funding & placement of "NYC Law-no right on red", "NYC Speed Limit 25mph unless otherwise posted" signs.**

There is a lack of signage where the Henry Hudson Parkway exits on to West Side streets, at the 79<sup>th</sup> Street and 95<sup>th</sup> -96<sup>th</sup> Street exits. As this may be the first place vehicles are actually on NYC streets from their point of origin, it is essential that New York City's rules & regulations be visible to motorists who may not be aware of them. Additionally, there is a paucity of speed limit signage throughout the West Side.