



BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14
FLATBUSH–MIDWOOD COMMUNITY DISTRICT
810 East 16th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11230

February 15, 2024

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Borough President

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District Manager

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Jacques Jiha, PhD
Director
Mayor's Office of Management and Budget
255 Greenwich Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10271

Daniel Garodnick
Director
NYC Department of City Planning
120 Broadway, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Letter of Comment for FY 2025

Dear Directors Jiha and Garodnick,

I am in receipt of the Register of Community Board Budget Request for FY 2025. Once again city agency responses to community board budget priorities are overwhelmingly underwhelming.

In 2017, OMB and DCP collaborated to introduce a new District Needs Statement platform that would connect community needs to budget priorities. While this was a worthy goal, the platform required a great deal of work at the community board level and, despite promises, yielded nothing of value in return. Agency responses were disconnected from and even dismissive of budget requests and thus, by new design, the district needs expressed therein. We have made our dissatisfaction with stock agency responses known over the past few years.

The Department of City Planning (DCP) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have repeatedly promised improved agency responses in exchange for the additional work we have had to dedicate to a clunky online portal and a generic template. The final report continues to appear to be the work of DCP rather than the respective community boards across the city despite DCP's eventual agreement to remove the cover letter from Director Garodnick. The responses that agencies provided to FY 2025 requests are unhelpful and dismissive of community boards and communities at large.

This cannot be how agencies wish to be represented. Such dismissive responses are anathema to intentions of the New York City Charter and make a charade of community input to the New York City budget.

Board members and staff dedicate hours of work to dig into data, read reports, prepare budget consultation agendas, attend budget consultations, and conduct committee meetings and public hearings in order to write CB14's district needs statement and prioritize our budget requests accordingly. A great deal of CB14's budget requests are based on daily interactions with community members and as such budget priorities stem from community service and the dedication of a volunteer board.

Acknowledgement and reciprocation of this work is long overdue. We are asking for meaningful, data-driven agency responses that will enable us to assist city agencies to provide service delivery and carry out their missions at the local level.

DCP and OMB should take swift action to engage community boards in an effort to reinvent this process before reopening the portal for the FY 26 cycle. Respectfully, until there is a substantial sign that changes will be made, that agency interaction will be meaningful, and that community input will be valued in the outcomes of this budget process, we will follow up with agencies directly to pursue community needs and budget requests rather than doing so through this faulty and disrespectful process.

In the meantime, please accept this correspondence as CB14's "Letter of Comment."

Thank you,



Shawn Campbell
District Manager

cc: Latonia McKinney, Senior Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs, OMB
Stephen Everette, Director of Planning Support, DCP
Celeste Leon, Co-Chair, Future of Community Boards
Susan Stetzer, Co-Chair, Future of Community Boards