

4. TOP THREE PRESSING ISSUES OVERALL

Brooklyn Community Board 14

The three most pressing issues facing this Community Board are:

Other - Write In (Required)

Because there are so many issues, various needs and many demographic, socio-economic and policy shifts everything is a number one priority for someone. It is important that all city agencies have the capacity to serve the public and it is imperative that the city coordinate internally and across departments to meet community needs. Currently this is not happening in NYC.

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Community Boards have not had a significant budget increase in 20 years and headcount has remained the same since our inception. Yet, CBs were tasked with gathering local input on complex zoning text changes, to continue weighing in on ULURP applications, expanding permits applications for cannabis retail, open dining and more. Additional responsibilities have been heaped on District Managers including functioning as agency privacy officers, conducting hybrid meetings, providing language access with little to no outside support and increasingly working with new board members who receive little training, or onboarding support.

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Meaningful local consultation has fallen off a cliff. Last year, the Department of City Planning passed three zoning text amendments but would not provide district level environmental impact statements and could not speak to how the various elements of these complex proposals will interact at the local level. CB14 recently garnered a Planning Fellow who will help discern this for our district. To the extent that capacity, accessibility, equity and resiliency improvements are being made by agencies and utilities alike, there is insufficient coordination and communication so that roadway disruptions are extended and use of the public right of way and public space in general is poorly planned.

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Affordable housing and housing security are urgent concerns. There are 800 housing violations per 1000 units in CD14, Getting information from the Department of Homeless Services regarding shelters in the district is nearly impossible. Now there is an investigation into whether shelter contracting followed proper procedure. We are told only days in advance, when we are told at all that a shelter is opening or changing population. It takes street outreach teams hundreds of interactions with unsheltered individuals to convince them to accept services. It's time for a paradigm shift. The City keeps funding approaches that do not work.

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Every year for over a decade we have had to request for the restoration of some baseline DSNY service or another. The Department of Sanitation defunded Manual Litter Patrol (MLP) – a baseline service, while simultaneously increasing enforcement on the very community they are supposed to serve. DSNY suggests we ask city councilmembers to fund "cleaning". In a district with five overlapping city councilmembers, this means that MLP is not provided equally throughout the district. Furthermore, every time we move a dollar from one account to another within the city, it loses value. The loss of efficiency is equivalent to the loss in service. Baseline services should be

paid directly through DSNY's own budget so that the services are provided equally throughout the district. This way additional council grants can support special projects, such as graffiti removal, catch basin clearing or tree pit maintenance, rather than supplanting DSNY's core mission.

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The department is offloading the cost of public waste containers onto Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) while simultaneously failing to provide vendor enforcement in those same BIDS. The city imposed a monopoly by requiring NYC residents to buy a single sourced garbage can. DSNY has threatened to punish small businesses who have not contracted with a new private carting company by forcing them into a contract with the most expensive option. There is legislation pending at the State level to address DSNY's culturally insensitive enforcement on residential collection rules in religious communities.

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Flooding continues to be a concern in the district. Infrastructure resiliency includes street conditions/roadway, street bridge, mass transit maintenance and infrastructure; street flooding; maintenance and cleanliness of institutions, natural assets, and public space. There are five chronic flooding locations in the district that flood every time it rains more than 1.5 inches an hour. Yet, there are no city-based solutions. The Comptroller's office paid \$4,826,552 in sewer overflow claims from (2017-2021). There are numerous emergency sewer line repairs in the district. Yet, DCP did not consider local environmental impacts in any of the COY proposals. These facts underscore the need for proactive upgrades and interagency coordination.

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DOT has one of the most expansive portfolios in the city. Their ability to coordinate within the department is often obviously challenged. Coordination across city agencies is worse. Community engagement is poor, misguided and disingenuous. Trench repair requests continue to languish. DOT continues to add asphalt to sinking streets and will not repair trenches unless they are part of a total street reconstruction. Three road bridges in CD14 are scheduled for repair but the full scope has not been determined. The purview issues surrounding Newkirk Plaza disqualify the Newkirk Street bridge from a component contract and likely put the timing of repairs beyond the horizon. DOT installs traffic calming devices with only spotty dialog with emergency responders and no maintenance plan. DOT has allowed Citibike to install docks that force people to step into the Caton Avenue truck route to dock the bike even though the sidewalk along the Parade Ground is extra wide. The revenue that the city collects for the public bike share program was a mere \$1.4 million in 2023 which is likely a very small share but we don't know for sure because the department was not able to provide what Lyft makes on the project. For-profit uses of the public street space including bike docking stations, reserved ride share parking and electrical vehicle charging stations, Amazon loading zones and sidewalk lockers, compete with public uses such as bike lanes, bus lanes, parking meters and even walkable sidewalks. DOT cannot explain how these competing interests are prioritized. It is difficult to have confidence in expanding programs under DOT's watch when the agency has not responded to repair requests, has not maintained other assets, and has not improved the time it takes to respond to speed hump requests (typically more than 3 years) or stop sign studies.

Other - Write In (Required)

Several of CB14 priorities have lingered on this list for years and even decades without being addressed or in some cases meaningfully acknowledged by the relevant agencies, including the establishment of a pedestrian plaza at Newkirk Plaza, open space expansion, and relocation of the 70th police precinct house. CB14 has advocated for Newkirk Plaza to be activated as a public plaza since DOT began the pedestrian plaza program, still to no avail. We have been told that a resolution is "imminent" for the past 10 months; defying the definition of imminent. Conditions on the Plaza

are in a downward spiral even though the plaza is already a plaza. DOT is willing to adopt the plaza into its program. MTA has indicated a willingness to sign agreements for plaza use, but has displayed foot dragging that makes buses look fast. It has taken them months so far to conduct a necessary engineering study. In the meantime, the Flatbush Development Corp wants to serve as the community partner. FDC has secured funding to improve and beautify the plaza. Recently MTA rejected their proposal to add a mural to the station house because MTA policy requires that station houses need to be identified as such. It seems from this that graffiti, dirt and urine stains make a station house more identifiable than a mural. The lack of agency accountability for the plaza must end and the only thing in the way of adoption into the DOT Pedestrian Plaza program is MTA inaction. Yet, they are excited about bringing the IBX and all the new stations that service will require to the District. It seems reasonable to expect MTA to maintain current assets if they expect hyper-local support for new ones.

Community Board 14 has the highest percentage citywide of residents who live more than a quarter mile away from a park. This is more than an issue of recreation - it has serious public health ramifications. Health disparities are exacerbated by the lack of outdoor recreational amenities. The Department of Parks and Recreation does not have an independent capital budget that can be objectively applied to parks in need of rehabilitation. Instead they rely on Councilmember funding. Here are three problems with this: 1. Councilmember term limits are such that most park rehabilitations won't be complete until the member has termed out; 2. CB14 has five overlapping CMs who represent more of the boarding district and thus have the (voter) incentive to fund outside of CD14; 3. capital funding for parks is not driven by objective criteria but by the vagaries of council district representation. This means that some playgrounds could get multiple refurbishments before others get one. That doesn't make sense. It is not equitable. It is not efficient. DPR should have its own independent capital budget to maintain the assets in its portfolio.

The African burial ground at Bedford Avenue and Church Avenue was transferred to the Department of Parks and Recreation in 2022 to develop an important memorial. It has completed the Public Design Commission presentation and adjusted the plan accordingly. Parks, working with the local council representative, included community input with focus on the descendant community. CB14 will maintain this priority through the continued support option in our budget requests. The community is looking forward to the installation of the Shirley Chisholm memorial sculpture and welcome center at the Parkside entrance to Prospect Park. CB14 has requested that Umma Park and the Campus Road Tot Lot be fully rehabilitated. We are grateful that there has been a councilmanic allocation for Umma Park from Councilmember Rita Joseph. Still, we believe that DPR should have agency over their own capital budget so they do not rely solely on council allocations. This would ensure that parks are rehabilitated according to objective measures of need.

The 70th Police Precinct must balance responding to crime, gang activity, quality of life complaints, and community relations in a racially, ethnically, religiously, and socio-economically diverse community. They do so from a precinct house that is located as far away from the heart of the district as can be. OMB approved a site search for a new precinct house three years ago but only three locations have been reviewed (and all rejected). This is a request that has been acknowledged, agreed upon, yet has been pending for over 30 years. Yet, this year at budget consultations NYPD representatives literally shrugged when asked about the status of their efforts. It is clear that leadership at NYPD is not advocating for the conditions of MOS at the precinct level. In the meantime, the current 70th precinct house is in constant disrepair. It leaks and floods and must depend on volunteer community members for maintenance.

Capacity to tow vehicles relies on headcount and tow vehicles, all of which are under resourced. NYPD cannot fill school crossing guard jobs. Headcount at the precinct is so low that it is impossible to tell if the Q-Team approach is working because Q-Team officers are constantly on patrol.

Other - Write In (Required)

We receive more service delivery requests for issues related to DOT than any other agency. Community members generate requests for traffic studies; street conditions; for traffic calming such as speed humps, stop signs, traffic signals; changes in alternate side of the street parking; sidewalk conditions; bike lanes that make sense and more. In addition, DOT has initiated installations of pedestrian islands; curb extensions; bike lane expansions; Amazon loading zones and sidewalk lockers, and more. The requests and initiatives too often do not intersect. DOT claims of community engagement are not broad enough, and rely too heavily on self-selected data gathered in their portals. It is not the average resident who takes the time to find input portals on DOT's labyrinth website to drop a pin where they'd like to see a bike lane or a residential loading zone. This is highly self selected data and it has its uses, but proof of community engagement is not one of them.

With so many projects and requests and with the increased development in the area, CB14 continues to encourage DOT to implement changes based on data and studies of the specifics of the areas that will be affected by projects and to include the community in the early phases of proposal development. Such projects need to be carefully coordinated other agencies. We should not have to hear from FDNY that pedestrian islands, speed humps or bike lanes will impede their emergency response times. Their input must be woven into the development of a proposal, not as remarks on a final proposal. That is inefficient and could cost lives. Private entities that are making money off of the use of taxpayer supported public space should be responsible to maintaining, and cleaning those spaces and consideration for additional service should be sewn into their contracts. DOT could be much better coordinated with SBS so that bus lane installations, delivery windows, and Citibike stations support economic development.

7. SUMMARY OF PRIORITIZED BUDGET REQUESTS

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

1 of 3 **New public parks**

DPR

Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

CD14 is about the lowest ranking community board citywide for access to public green space. There are few locations to develop parks but they should be explored. A CB14 Fund for the City of New York Planning Fellow, made recommendations in 2017, some of which are no longer viable. The agency response to this is to ask local elected officials, which raises the overall concern about agency capacity and coordination. DPR should have a capital budget capacity that is adequate to meet capital needs based on objective community assessments rather than the vagaries of overlapping, term-limited political borders.

2 of 3 **Other capital budget request for DPR**

DPR

Other capital budget request for DPR

The Lakeshore project is a multi-million-dollar green infrastructure project that would create marshland, utilize storm water for the benefit of the park and mitigate damaging flood conditions that affect homes, businesses, and other city assets such as the Parade Ground, the SRG Precinct, bus stops and more. It is a project that would increase access to the parks for mobility limited individuals. Funding this project addresses several capacity and coordination goals. Last year the agency responded that this project is funded. That is not so. This is at least a \$20 million project and in FY 25, \$5million was allocated to the second phase. This project must be fully funded, supported and expedited.

3 of 3 **Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)**

DPR

Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

The Hot Spot Tot Lot on Campus Road is the only DPR asset that has not had a capital upgrade in over a decade. DPR should have greater control of capital purse strings to maintain parks and playgrounds in communities according to conditions and time between upgrades rather than relying on elected officials for capital funds. Usually those making the allocations will be term limited before the ribbon cutting. Please don't reply, "ask your elected officials." At least provide the scope estimate and support for this request.

CS Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

DPR

Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

Location: Bedford Avenue - Church Avenue

The Flatbush African Burial Ground will be constructed as a memorial through the Department of Parks and Recreation. We understand that capital funding is in place. This is a continued support request assuming capital is adequate as told. CB14 highly prioritizes funding that is adequate to fully realize a vision of this important, sacred and historic site that is informed by community engagement with priority on the descendent community. We will also support expense funded to maintain and program if/as appropriate.

CS Develop the Shirley Chisholm Welcome Center at Prospect Park

DPR

Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

A monument to community and national shero Shirley Chisholm is to be installed at the Ocean Avenue-Parkside entrance to Prospect Park. A full welcome center, with historic and memorial installation and a comfort station has been envisioned as well. This project should be funded. DPR should have its own capital budget to support such community investments. Instead, we anticipate the reply that the community should seek funding from Council. This is a DPR request but there should be a mechanism to choose DPR and DCLA since it is also cultural in nature.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

1 of 1 Evaluate a public location or property for green infrastructure, e.g. rain gardens, stormwater greenstreets, green playgrounds

DEP

Evaluate a public location or property for green infrastructure, e.g. rain gardens, stormwater greenstreets, green playgrounds

There are several locations in the district that flood chronically in rainstorms. These locations have all been brought to DEP's attention. It is difficult to identify what and where specifically capital projects are needed. They were apparently needed in the several locations where DEP had to make emergency repairs. We ask DEP to respond to the requests pending and ADVISE as to where upgrades and repairs are needed. During City of Yes for housing public hearing testimony, several community members and their council representatives decried flooding issues throughout the city. What does it say about DEP's capacity and coordination abilities that this was such a widespread concern and that it had to be expressed at a zoning hearing? Where is the DEP platform proactively upgrading infrastructure before we get to emergency repairs? There have been five recent emergency sewer repair jobs in the district just in the past months. These emergencies take months to fix and rely on other agencies and utilities for timely coordination. Furthermore, since they are "emergency" projects there is no Community Liaison assigned to keep the neighbors apprised. If this isn't indicative of the need for proactive maintenance, what is? DEP must provide solutions because property, businesses and public areas should not have to withstand chronic flooding. What capital projects would help in these various locations: bioswales, catch basins, permeable surface additions, holding tanks?

Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)

1 of 2 More affordable housing for low and extremely low income households

HPD

Provide more housing for extremely low and low income households

In HPD's own Mayor's Management Report, it was stated in the capital budget section that, "HPD must work to restore lost affordable housing capacity." Affordable housing is dropping as a share of housing in CD 14. Low and extremely low-income housing is always the smallest percentage of new developments, and they tend to be smaller units such as studios and 1 bedroom, making low-income housing for families nearly nonexistent. There are also pressing needs for senior housing and supportive housing in the community. HPD reported a \$9.25 billion 5-year capital fund but no additional capital was budgeted at the time due to headcount constraints prohibiting projects from moving forward. This must be remedied to ensure that the \$250 million infrastructure funds to support housing and training technology, new supportive housing builds, capital preservation, and In Rem capital projects can be funded to meet community needs. In CB14 there are 800 housing code violations for every 1000 units. HPD must improve capacity and coordinate within and with other agencies to meet this urgent need.

2 of 2 Low income, supportive and senior housing

HPD

Provide more housing for extremely low and low income households

The need for senior housing, supportive housing and increasing low and extremely low income housing will likely see greater pressures depending on how City of Yes for housing passes. There are few mandates to create housing that generates less process and is dependent on support programs, such as vouchers. CB14 has lost housing at 30% AMI as a share of housing overall. There are very few public lots in CB14 but HPD must work creatively to identify potential sites for 100% affordable developments. There is one municipal parking lot, a DOE building on Avenue M and Ocean Avenue and our libraries are one and two story buildings. These sites should be explored and HPD should be able to explain the reasons if they are not feasible for truly affordable housing projects.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

1 of 3 Rehabilitate bridges

DOT

Rehabilitate bridges

The Beverley Road bridge and the Caton Road bridge both require rehabilitation. The Newkirk Avenue Road bridge is also in need of repair but due to purview complications related to Newkirk Plaza, DOT cannot add the bridge to a component contract, which will delay repairs.

2 of 3 Roadway maintenance (resurfacing, trench restoration, etc.)**DOT**

Roadway maintenance (resurfacing, trench restoration, etc.)

Six years ago, DOT identified \$60 million for trench repair but none of it was allocated to CD14, despite worsening conditions. We have been told that this funding was never applied to a repair and there is no funding for trench restoration. There must be an increase in the budget for road and street infrastructure repair. Seven locations have been submitted to DOT. 564 East 29th Street; 1781 Ocean Avenue/SE corner of Avenue M; 715 Ocean Parkway Service Road; Waldorf Court between East 17 and Dead End; Hillel Place and Kenilworth Place intersection; 464-476 East 16th Street; and East 16th Street between Avenue H and the dead end. DOT addresses these complaints by filling in the depressions with asphalt. Bus pads at the East 18th and Church Avenue station are in disrepair. Delineators are constantly strewn in streets, intersections and sidewalks. The constant need for repair should raise questions about efficiency. Can't DOT do better?

3 of 3 Other transportation infrastructure requests**DOT**

Other transportation infrastructure requests

Ensure that sidewalks, curbs, street and bus pads are maintained at all bus stops. The bus stop at Church Avenue and East 18th street, which is a heavily utilized connection to the Brighton Line at the Church Avenue station is hazardous in both directions. The sidewalks require repair, the curbs are dilapidated and the streets have waving and pot holes. DOT installed an express lane on this stop and should have ensured bus pad, sidewalk and street maintenance along each stop during that project.

School Construction Authority**1 of 1 Provide a new or expand an existing elementary school****SCA**

Provide a new or expand an existing elementary school

DOE still acknowledges CD 14 as a district in need of seats. When last measured at full capacity, PS 139 was at 121% of utilization; PS 127 was 125%; PS 249 was at 128%, PS 193 at 111%; PS 315 was at 118% and the PS 152 Annex was at 146%. Since annexes are built to address overcrowding, an overcrowded annex boldly underscores the need for additional elementary school seats in the northern end of the District. The elementary schools listed above are all north of Avenue L. DOE and SCA need to provide a new needs assessment based on population changes and class size mandates. SCA no longer has the capacity to show up to CB Committee meetings to engage with community members and provide updates on ongoing capital projects or discuss building needs. Therefore it is difficult to provide specifics here.

New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA)**1 of 2 Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure****NYCTA**

Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure

Location: Church Ave and E 18 St

Church Avenue is the most heavily utilized station in the district and is in disrepair. A public private partnership is in place to install an elevator to make the station ADA compliant. Other upgrades and additional security cameras must accompany this project, especially given that this will be more heavily utilized by vulnerable community members.

2 of 2 Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.**NYCTA**

Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.

The 18th Avenue Stop on the Culver Line is on the same block as the United Cerebral Palsy complex. This stop was recently upgraded. It's unfortunate that accessibility was not one of the improvements.

New York Police Department (NYPD)

1 of 3 Renovate or upgrade existing precinct houses**NYPD**

Renovate or upgrade existing precinct houses

While NYPD continues the search for an appropriate location for a new precinct house, the current precinct house floods and leaks and does not have adequate lockers, storage, parking, nor is it handicap accessible. We have hesitated to prioritize capital dollars for a precinct house that should be replaced but as conditions worsen, there's a more urgent concern. There should not be a need for volunteer community assistance to maintain a precinct house. Work orders should be addressed quickly but at this point, many work orders are putting band aids on hemorrhages. NYPD should offer to buyout and help relocate Adapt Community Network in order to build on the block. In addition, the vacant lot on the block should be explored as a potential parking facility for the 70th Precinct.

2 of 3 Capital investments in Towing capacity**NYPD**

Other NYPD facilities and equipment requests

Every day there is a community request to have a vehicle towed. There are also trucks and trailers-some attached, some not. When they have plates or a later model and/or luxury vehicles and can only be towed by NYPD, it can take several weeks and more. PD notes that there is a shortage of large tow vehicles. Last year they asked CBs to request a new tow pound and then responded that they did not support the request. We strongly urge capital expenditures to increase the number of large tow vehicles and identify an additional tow pound as needed.

3 of 3 Renovate or upgrade existing precinct houses**NYPD**

Renovate or upgrade existing precinct houses

The time is now. The history of efforts to relocate this aging facility goes back three decades. In 2006, DCAS began property acquisition at 1326 Ocean Avenue and NYPD set aside \$30 million for the property, and OMB stated its commitment to identify additional funding. Construction was set to begin in 2013. It did not and the site was lost to a market rate housing development. A \$1 million scoping study to assess the feasibility of building a new precinct house on site acknowledges the locational challenges that the current site presents. OMB approved a site search to no avail. Relocating the precinct house remains a priority. NYPD must shift pressure on OMB into high gear for the sake of the MOS at the precinct level. No more shrugging as they pass the buck. Take responsibility.

Brooklyn Public Library (BPL)**1 of 2 Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library****BPL**

Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library

Ensure that all capital improvements are needed at our local libraries: Cortelyou Branch; Flatbush Branch; Midwood Branch; and Kensington Branch are met.

2 of 2 Cortelyou Branch expansion**BPL**

Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library

Consider a building rehabilitation and expansion of the Cortelyou Road branch to increase space and opportunities to expand programming. The fact that this branch is a one-story building with a deep set back, suggests that there is developable space. In fact, CB14 notes this location in a HPD request suggesting a coordinated exploration of this site for both a library rehab and co-located housing (the Brooklyn Heights library is an example of such mixed use development).

Fire Department of New York (FDNY)**1 of 1 Rehabilitate or renovate existing fire houses or EMS stations****FDNY**

Rehabilitate or renovate existing fire houses or EMS stations

Fund station house renovations and upgrades at Engine 255/Ladder 157; Engine 281/Ladder 147 and Engine 250 firehouses. Including the addition of a station house generator at one of these fire stations. There are no firehouses in CD 14 with a generator.

Department of City Planning (DCP)

Please note that the following needs are in the order of the District Needs Statement narrative. Health and Human Services are first; followed by Youth, Education and Children's Services; Public Safety and Emergency Response; Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency; Housing, Land Use and Economic Development; Transportation; Parks and then Other. DCP's process requires CBs to list community needs in a misleading priority order. It has been stated in the District Needs Statement that we believe that needs are intertwined within and across agencies and do not believe it serves a purpose to have needs for parks to face off against needs for libraries (for example). What all agencies need at this time is an increase in their respective and collective capacity and ability to coordinate better within and with other sister city agencies. That's priority one across the board.

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Department of Transportation (DOT)

1 of 2 **Other expense budget request for DOT**

DOT

Other expense budget request for DOT

New York City must recognize ownership of the Plaza. The clearest solution we see is for Newkirk Plaza to become a formal participant in the DOT's Pedestrian Plaza Program. The City's inability to determine jurisdiction over Newkirk Plaza has left several chronic issues unresolved, including a serious rodent infestation, sanitation maintenance concerns, disrepair of the brick plaza surface, and growing street homelessness challenges. The New York City Police Department, the Department of Sanitation, the Department of Buildings, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, have all been called upon to deal with myriad issues on the Plaza. Many community stakeholders, including business owners, civic and community-based organizations, and local government entities, continue to struggle

2 of 2 **Address traffic congestion**

DOT

Address traffic congestion

The need to address freight mobility, including trucking, waterways, light rail and last mile trucking concerns are increasingly urgent. A review of truck routes is a task that DOT has started and stopped over the years. In CD 14 Caton Avenue to Linden Blvd is a truck route. Just south of Caton is Church Avenue - also a truck route. Traffic is gridlocked on Caton nearly endlessly in both directions. There is an express bus lane has been added to Church Avenue, eliminating truck delivery windows. These conditions have pushed more traffic onto sidestreets. The proliferation of 53' trucks on our streets is dangerous testament to the city's inability to coordinate interagency issues. We have turned to DOT, NYPD, and NYS DOT for relief, to no avail.

Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)

1 of 2 **Provide more housing for extremely low and low income households**

HPD

Provide more housing for extremely low and low income households

Ensuring that there is affordable housing for CD14's community members at lower strata of the AMI, for seniors and those in need of supportive housing rely on HPD fully implementing Housing Our Neighbors and all components of the Housing Blueprint plan including fighting tenant harassment. These programs seem to be falling short. Our community is left vulnerable to HPD's inability to increase agency headcount and thus capacity. Interagency coordination should be put into place such that DOB will not issue permits in buildings with HPD violations unless needed to address those very violations.

2 of 2 **Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations**

HPD

Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations

CD14 has one of the highest serious housing code violations per 1000 units of housing in the city and it is getting worse. HPD must be granted enforcement authority that makes a difference. Inspector training and technology, fully implementing Housing Our Neighbors and all components of the Housing Blueprint plan and fighting tenant harassment are all programs that seem to be falling short. Our community is left vulnerable to HPD's inability to increase agency capacity. Interagency coordination should be put into place such that DOB will not issue permits in buildings with HPD violations unless needed to address those very violations.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

1 of 3 Forestry services, including street tree maintenance**DPR**

Forestry services, including street tree maintenance

Flatbush and Midwood boast 11,237 street trees, including 121 different species according to DPR's census. Argyle Road is considered the "leafiest" in Brooklyn. A more robust pruning cycle is still necessary. Requests for emergency pruning and fallen branches are increasing in the District. Fallen limbs, branches and entire trees too often were reported for pruning but not addressed. Paying claims instead of service is poor policy. DPR needs a better funded and more robust contracting practice in addition to an increase in the budget to bring the work in house.

2 of 3 Plant new street trees**DPR**

Plant new street trees

There is a lack of enforcement when it comes to developers and planting requirements. Elected officials have used reso funds to plant trees where it was a developers responsibility. Where planting is the city's responsibility it should be properly funded and then adequately pruned.

3 of 3 Community Tree Pruning**DPR**

Forestry services, including street tree maintenance

While DPR struggles to build enough capacity to address tree pruning needs, there should be an effort to better coordinate the Community Tree Pruners program. Reportedly, residents who would like to become qualified to become tree pruners, cannot get into the program. If DPR doesn't have the capacity to accept help expanding capacity, that's a real problem!

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)**1 of 4 Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment****DOHMH**

Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment

Nearly one in 25 New Yorkers has experienced mental illness. About 280,000 have major disorders such as schizophrenia. Forty percent of those in city shelters and 53% of those in city jails experience mental illness. From March to December of 2020, more than 17,000 calls were made for mental health assistance. This was 85 times more than the same period in 2019. The city must continue to expand mobile crises teams, and intensive mobile teams as well as HOMESTAT outreach to unsheltered homeless individuals experiencing mental illness. A Support and Connection Center should be provided in Brooklyn.

2 of 4 Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize substance misuse and encourage treatment**DOHMH**

Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize substance misuse and encourage treatment

Street outreach teams, NYPD, and human services organizations report that many people who appear to be unsheltered often have homes but congregate where they can access and use substances. There are few programs available to them unless they are in fact homeless or choose to seek care. This is a woeful and dangerous approach, or lack thereof. Community Mobile and Intensive Mobile teams should be expanded in Brooklyn.

3 of 4 Other programs to address public health issues requests**DOHMH**

Other programs to address public health issues requests

Public health programs that address health disparities with an urgent focus on maternal health are of the highest priorities. Ongoing infection disease concerns, barriers to vaccines whether they be knowledge and understanding based, cultural practices based, language access, etc. must be thoughtfully addressed. Access to quality housing, healthy food choices and outdoor space all contribute systemically to health outcomes and thus cannot be considered singularly, let alone in competition with one another.

4 of 4 Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations**DOHMH**

Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations

Rodent complaints have risen throughout the city, While DOHMH continues to increase the number of inspections performed annually, these efforts are outpaced by conditions contributing to rodent infestations. DOT's Open Streets for restaurant policy, DOB's abatement rules for construction sites should have better storage and collection policies. DSNY should be better equipped to address illegal drop offs and dumping. A better public education plan so that people understand the downside of feeding feral cats and birds is needed.

Department of Sanitation (DSNY)**1 of 5 Other cleaning requests****DSNY**

Other cleaning requests

Please restore MLP in the baseline budget. There are 5 overlapping council members in CD14. Those overlaps vary in size and the council members vary in their willingness to give council member allocations back to city agencies, and that's understandable. These funds are supposed to supplement, not supplant agency responsibility. There are 1200 road segments in CD 14. Given the number of dead ends, overpasses, and road bridges, cleaning is a persistent need. The evisceration of MLP was ill advised. Asking council members to refund DSNY with Clean NYC or reso funds does not ensure equal distribution of services across the district and is financially inefficient. Baseline services should come from the baseline budget. Restore full funding for MLP so the district can be cleaned efficiently and equitably.

2 of 5 Increase enforcement of street vending**DSNY**

Increase enforcement of street vending

The addition of vendor enforcement has not been adequately resourced. There are not enough San Police and they don't cover specific areas. There is not a transparent reporting system in place. The problem has only exacerbated since shifting enforcement to DSNY. This is a failed policy and while it's in these budget priorities, it might not be a good idea to continue funding a failed policy. This one needs a paradigm shift that is balanced with fair permitting for vendors. That would take interagency coordination. As of now, we have chronic locations that are expanding and ironically creating litter and other sanitation issues.

3 of 5 Provide or expand NYC organics collection program**DSNY**

Provide or expand NYC organics collection program

Reinstate community compost sites to complement once-a-week curbside collection.

4 of 5 Targeted enforcement**DSNY**

Increase enforcement of illegal dumping laws

The drop down menu on this report platform lists 10 "increase enforcement" options. This board is loathe to ask for more enforcement when DSNY demonstrates an inability to aim violations at the actual offender. DSNY is failing to enforce vendor rules but then penalizes brick and mortar businesses by serving violations for the litter that vendors left behind. DSNY has not restored MLP and then issues violations to homeowners who are victims of illegal drop offs. DSNY went on a ticket writing blitz and wrote tickets for early set out at 7:30 on Fridays in a Jewish Orthodox community. We don't want more enforcement, we want appropriately targeted enforcement. An increase in cameras at locations where chronic drop offs occur, is a good place to start. An increase in stakeouts, would be helpful. The ability to open bags and increase according to addressed contents within, might help as well. These approaches seem more likely to mitigate the behavior of offenders in a manner that is more targeted than gimmicky "hall of shame" photos that only show us where but not who.

5 of 5 Commercial containers**DSNY**

Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers

DSNY should not expect BIDs to pay for containers. BIDs were created to supplement, not supplant city services. If DSNY is going to mandate containers, they should be provided in the same way corner baskets were provided. Please don't pass this responsibility off to elected officials either. This is DSNY's program and should be in DSNY's baseline budget.

Department for Homeless Services (DHS)

1 of 2 Improve safety at homeless shelters**DHS**

Improve safety at homeless shelters

The men's shelter that opened in CD14 in 2023 has created a number of community concerns. Security, including perimeter patrols are not addressing the complaint that individuals are entering private property, defecating in the street, engaging in substance use. Interactions between shelter residents and residents of the adjacent supportive housing facility have not been positive for the clients or the community. The Community Advisory Board has not reassured residents. The impacts of this shelter are far worse than anticipated and funding to ensure adequate support, programing and safety is urgently needed. There is now another men's shelter in the district and the contract is held by a Staten Island organization with no track record running such a shelter. There was only a four day notification and no word on when the shelter will be at full census. There is reasonable concern that the clients within are not being well-served. There is very little reason to be confident that the city is awarding performance and merit-based contracts. Homelessness has been a crises for a long time. The shelter system seems to be in a crises of its own. The women's shelter in the district has not held a CAB meeting in over a year. This is supposed to be a contracted obligation.

2 of 2 Expand street outreach**DHS**

Expand street outreach

Over the years, we have been told by the Department of Homeless Services that it takes an average of 250 encounters with unsheltered individuals to convince them to accept services. This suggests that services offered are not in line with the needs of those living unsheltered. More robust teams with specialized services including those to address addictions, and mental health issues must augment street outreach. Innovative approaches such as the SHAP program must be expanded in Brooklyn. This program recruits volunteers, many of whom are formally "street homeless" persons and thus, more often trusted messengers for street outreach and their success rate is outstanding. In their second year, of 454 encounters, they placed 226 individuals. The increased capacity afforded to Breaking Ground last year should be coordinated with innovative outreach strategies that are already out there! For those on the street, mobile hygiene and health services should be expanded both for the immediate needs of unsheltered people and for the investment in building trust these services promote.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**1 of 1 Clean catch basins****DEP**

Clean catch basins

There are several locations in the district that flood chronically that have all been brought to DEP's attention. It seems that the issues can only be resolved with capital investments and that is the second highest request on CB14 capital list. In the meantime, catch basin cleaning and maintenance, courtesy flushes, rain barrels, backflow valve education, and other short term mitigation strategies are needed.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)**1 of 2 Provide more community board staff****OMB**

Provide more community board staff

Every year we manage hundreds of service delivery requests, a youth conference, a nonprofit roundtable. We've added a lunch and learn series, and a YLC. Increasing responsibilities have been assigned and hiring staff and specialists, such as planners, policy analysts, IT assistance, would help to introduce more initiatives and develop longer range projects. As the most local city agency, we give voice to the individuals who make up our communities. To support serving communities equitably, it is imperative that the city fund and provide language access services at the CB level.

2 of 2 Other expense request**OMB**

Other expense request

DCP and OMB - improve DNS and budget process.

Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP)

1 of 1 Other expense budget request for DCA**DCWP**

Other expense budget request for DCA

DCWP is the licensing and main enforcement agency for the sale of tobacco and e-cigarettes. The pace of inspections is slow, and the enforcement mechanisms is inadequate. More stores sell these items without a license than with one. Report of sales to minors and sales of flavored vapes are prevalent. A significant investment must be made in adding and training inspectors. At the state level, OCM is stepping into cannabis enforcement. The Sheriff's office has had impact on some enforcement. NYPD has been marginalized but remains involved where possible. This is an inefficient and ineffective approach.

Human Resources Administration (HRA)**1 of 1 Provide, expand, or enhance rental assistance programs/vouchers for permanent housing****HRA**

Provide, expand, or enhance rental assistance programs/vouchers for permanent housing

Community District 14 ranks high in the percentage of severely rent burdened households, which is to say that they pay 50% or more of their monthly income on housing. Overall, 29% of households are severely rent burdened. This is down from a recent high of 35%. For low-income households, 44% are severely rent burdened. The share of units available at 30% AMI has decreased again. When we say that we need affordable housing, not just housing, this is the basis. The District ranks 3rd in Brooklyn and is in the top 10 citywide in the percent of renter households that are severely overcrowded. These are pressures that lend themselves to homelessness and continued expansion of prevention programs is warranted. Emergency rental assistance, one-shot deals, FEPS, CityFEPS, and the HOMEBASE program must be fully funded and the capacity of HRA to provide outreach and technical assistance must be increased. Greater coordination between programs such as WeCare to address housing vulnerabilities related to mental health needs and further support for those transition into permanent housing are needed as well.

Administration for Children's Services (ACS)**1 of 1 Other foster care and child welfare requests****ACS**

Other foster care and child welfare requests

When asked by survey to rank public safety priorities, 85% of respondents ranked support for cure violence groups, number one. ACS's Division of Youth and Family Justice and the efforts to support violence disrupters programs and organizations is a high priority from a youth service and a public safety perspective. There are several programs that ACS has introduced or grown in recent years. CD14 organizations have applied to the RFP for Family Enrichment Program. We hope they will be awarded. As for foster care and casework, the agency has made positive strides in reducing caseloads and fostered youth is at an all-time low.

Department of Buildings (DOB)**1 of 2 Address illegal conversions and uses of buildings****DOB**

Address illegal conversions and uses of buildings

There is need for more DOB action on illegal conversions in what would be single family homes and in multifamily buildings. Enforcement on illegal curb cuts and parking pads would move the city toward carbon neutrality. Rather than using the tools we have, there is a new zoning text amendment. Short term rentals are not enforced. Some air bnbs have been reported in the already scarce affordable units in the district.

2 of 2 Assign additional building inspectors (including expanding training programs)**DOB**

Assign additional building inspectors (including expanding training programs)

DOB is operating with a 15% deficit in human resources. Many of these unfulfilled positions are inspectors. With the continued growing rate of new construction in the district, this is an urgent priority. Too many complaints are closed out due to lack of access while unpermitted work continues to the point of completion. Better timing of inspections, additional attempts and more detailed follow ups would assist in the ability to enforcement myriad violations.

Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)

1 of 1 Provide, expand, or enhance the Summer Youth Employment Program**DYCD**

Provide, expand, or enhance the Summer Youth Employment Program

According to our Youth Conference attendees survey, the biggest draw for the 500 youth who attended our annual conference was jobs. It is imperative that DYCD jobs programs be expanded and dependably funded. Additional focus on building capacity at the CBO level to expand programming into underserved communities is imperative. Cure violence programs depend on significant alternatives. DYCD is poised to support new models of curing violence and expanding opportunities for future leaders. All DYCD programs should include a component on fraud prevention and financial literacy.

New York Police Department (NYPD)**1 of 1 Hire additional crossing guards****NYPD**

Hire additional crossing guards

Additional crossing guards is an ever increasing request. New schools have opened, new developments are in the pipeline. The Community Board defers to the Police Precinct to assign additional crossing guards to new locations. It is our understanding that these positions are difficult to fill. Therefore, we request that the city demonstrate that it cares about student safety by either increasing pay to meet the labor pool or by posting NYPD or Traffic officers to augment the crossing guard labor pool as it stands. Funding should also cover substitute crossing guards so that intersections are not without this important safety measure when a crossing guard is out for any period of time. In the past NYPD would fill a vacant position with a police officer until the crossing guard returned or the spot was filled. This practice should be reinstituted.

Department for the Aging (DFTA)**1 of 2 Increase staffing for homebound adult programs****DFTA**

Increase staffing for homebound adult programs

Case management, home care, legal services, and transportation services are generally intertwined. There is no way to prioritize the needs of one senior citizen over those of another and it would be folly to provide transportation over home care for a senior who is in need of both. The funding of these services must be designed with the approach that support services are inextricable.

2 of 2 Funding for a new senior center program**DFTA**

Funding for a new senior center program

Engage in reimagining an RFP for senior centers. The population of persons 65 years old and up in CD14 has increased from 10% in 2010 to 17% in 2021.

Brooklyn Public Library (BPL)**1 of 1 Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs****BPL**

Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs

The Community Board supports the continuation and expansion of programs that are so valuable in connecting our community members to literacy and culture. From small children, to teens, adults and older adults, the breadth of library programming is impressive and invaluable. We are grateful that branch managers and program directors are so active with the board and always willing to share and update us regarding new programs and services.

Fire Department of New York (FDNY)**1 of 2 Provide more firefighters or EMS workers****FDNY**

Provide more firefighters or EMS workers

Fund adequate new firefighter, Marshall, EMS and inspector hires. Given the pace of development and the density that is adding to our community, it is imperative that we ensure that staffing remain optimal and that the addition of a 5th firefighter on the truck is expanded to firehouses serving our community. The number of firefighters fully trained for all inspections should be at 100%.

2 of 2 Lifeguard training and management**FDNY**

Expand funding for fire prevention and life safety initiatives

The City should transfer the responsibility for lifeguard training and management from the Dept of Parks and Recreation to FDNY. These jobs are life safety initiatives and could provide a pathway to career emergency services. This is a proposal that was studied by IBO and is supported by some councilmembers. In addition, FDNY personnel should be able to "moonlight" as lifeguards. This was a practice in the past that the city paused for budgetary reasons. Fund the payroll to ensure public safety at city beaches.

Department of Small Business Services (SBS)**1 of 1 Provide commercial lease support for business owners****SBS**

Provide commercial lease support for business owners

Supporting venues that generate social capital and drive economic development is key to post pandemic recovery. Kings Theater was an EDC project that is owned and managed by a private entity and is a for profit enterprise. The city then enacted several policy decisions in the area that undermined the original multi-million-dollar investment in the theater as an economic driver.

Department of City Planning (DCP)**1 of 1 Process****DCP**

Other expense request for DCP

Please note that the following needs are in the order of the District Needs Statement narrative. Health and Human Services are first; followed by Youth, Education and Children's Services; Public Safety and Emergency Response; Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency; Housing, Land Use and Economic Development; Transportation; Parks and then Other. DCP's process requires CBs to list community needs in a misleading priority order. It has been stated in the District Needs Statement that we believe that needs are intertwined within and across agencies and do not believe it serves a purpose to have needs for parks to face off against needs for libraries (for example). What all agencies need at this time is an increase in their respective and collective capacity and ability to coordinate better within and with other sister city agencies. That's priority one across the board.

Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC)**1 of 1 Maternal Health Disparities****HHC**

Other expense budget request for HHC

Develop programs and outreach to address maternal health care disparities through community outreach and medical care services.

New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA)**1 of 2 Address overcrowded buses****NYCTA**

Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation

Assess use of busses and add to routes, especially morning commutes.

2 of 2 Newkirk Plaza**NYCTA**

Improve subway station or train cleanliness, safety and maintenance

It took years to convince DOT to accept Newkirk Plaza into the pedestrian plaza program. It took another year for DOT lawyers and MTA lawyers to compose an agreement. It has now taken another year for MTA to conduct the necessary engineering study prior to implementing the agreement. It's a slap in the face of the community that the MTA is simultaneously trying to engage in support of the IBX plan. Additionally, MTA would not let a local CBO improve the Newkirk Plaza station house with a mural because they claimed that station houses have to be identifiable as such. However, the station house is filthy and covered in graffiti - why would this be considered more identifiable. If MTA is not taking care of the assets currently in our community, why would they expect the community to welcome the new assets that come along with the IBX? They should expect a great deal of skepticism if not anger and dismay.