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**Gale A. Brewer, Borough President**

February 24, 2017

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor  
City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Speaker  
New York City Council  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Mr. Dean Fuleihan  
Director  
Mayor's Office of Management and Budget  
255 Greenwich Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio, Speaker Mark-Viverito and Budget Director Fuleihan:

Pursuant to section 241 of the New York City Charter, enclosed please find the Manhattan Borough Board's comprehensive statement on the budget priorities of the borough.

I look forward to working with all of you during the upcoming budget adoption process to address the needs of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer  
Chair of the Manhattan  
Borough Board

**THE MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD BUDGET PRIORITIES REPORT**  
**FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2017**



**GALE A. BREWER**  
**MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

# **MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD**

## **MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

**Hon. Gale A. Brewer**

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## **Manhattan Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Priorities Report**

Section 241 of the New York City Charter allows each Borough Board to submit a comprehensive statement on the budget priorities of the borough to the Mayor, City Council, and Director of Management and Budget. The Charter also allows for one or multiple public hearings to solicit input and recommendations from the public on the budget needs of the Borough. In accordance with this section of the New York City Charter, the Manhattan Borough Board held a public hearing on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

### **Borough Profile**

The Borough of Manhattan—the most densely populated of all five City boroughs—continues to be the home of great culture, strong neighborhoods, and of forward thinking activism. As our borough continues to chart new paths around civic engagement, social consciousness, and urban planning, we must do so with particular attentiveness to the ways in which our communities are experiencing great change.

From Inwood to Battery Park City, Manhattan's residential and commercial neighborhoods are transforming before our eyes. The rapid pace at which we are experiencing these changes presents us with the unique challenge of allocating new, and preserving existing, community resources. The City's commitments through budget allocations and policy must keep pace with the continued increase in density our borough is experiencing.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Manhattan experienced at 3.2% population increase from the year 2000 to 2010. More recent figures suggest that after the census was completed—between the years 2010 and 2013—our borough's population increased from 1,585,873 to 1,626,159, a 2.5% jump. As the administration, in partnership with local communities, pursues an aggressive affordable housing program, we will likely see these numbers continue to rise, especially in areas of the borough that have been historically under-resourced.

The City's budget is a statement of its values, of its commitments, and of the future that it hopes to create. That future must be in service of ensuring equity across all five boroughs, in every neighborhood. While the administration has made great strides in moving us in that direction, we have identified places where we'd like to see some improvement.

Below are areas that the Manhattan Borough Board would like the administration to address in the FY18 Executive Budget. Additionally, we have attached testimony provided by constituents at the Manhattan Borough Board budget hearing held on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in addition to the resolutions/letters submitted by the community boards.

## **Senior Services:**

New York City's aging population is growing, but the agency tasked with providing services to seniors has not grown to meet the growing demand for services. It seems inconsistent that at a time when senior services are so desperately needed--and as the City is investing in other age groups--that the Department for the Aging (DFTA) continues to be so drastically underfunded. According to statistics provided by aging advocates, DFTA's budget represents ½ of 1% of the city's almost \$86 billion FY18 budget. That is alarming and with a growing senior population, doesn't go far enough to address the needs.

In the City's FY17 January plan, DFTA was funded at \$340,996,000. In the current plan, DFTA's budget has been reduced to \$306,465,000. The almost \$35 million decrease is troubling for an agency that is tasked with supporting so many. The reductions to DFTA's budget means that this year alone, there will have to be spending cuts to "Senior Centers and Meals", "Senior Employment and Benefits", and "Senior Services". The specific numbers are as follows:

1. **Senior Centers and Meals:** (Funding for senior centers and congregate and home delivered meals. Senior centers provide educational programs, nutritional and health services, and recreational programs in community based settings)
  - a. 2017 Plan: \$187,470,000
  - b. 2018 Plan: \$171,880,000
2. **Senior Employment and Benefits:** (Funding for employment programs that subsidize jobs for seniors, as well as benefit programs, including assistance with home energy costs and obtaining health insurance)
  - a. 2017 Plan: \$3,199,000
  - b. 2018 Plan: \$1,551,000
3. **Senior Services:** (Funding to provide for a variety of contracted programs, including Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), caregiver support, social services, transportation, and discretionary awards)
  - a. 2017 Plan: \$56,153,000
  - b. 2018 Plan: \$32,918,000

In addition to increasing the plans for each of these programs to 2017 levels, we echo the proposal provided by LiveOn NY (attached) to baseline \$60,608,000 in the coming fiscal year to support core services and place-based programs, and to fill gaps where they exist. We've included LiveOn NY's full proposal as an attachment.

On top of the funding cuts, we are seeing inequitable funding throughout senior centers. In the "*Separate and Unequal*" report released by Union Settlement on January 16, 2017, it shows the disparities in funding towards senior centers where in one case, there is a senior center in Lower

Manhattan receiving \$3.54/meal, while another senior center in Brooklyn is receiving \$18.36/meal. We agree with the recommendation of the report that the administration should invest the estimated \$15 million to ensure that the most under resourced senior centers are provided a more equitable breakdown of funding.

### **Community Boards:**

Community Boards are not just a place where local residents file complaints about noise, street repaving, and sidewalk cafes; they serve as key partners in helping the City to better understand local agency needs, review applications for neighborhood development, and provide important information to their constituencies on behalf of elected officials, non-profits, and small businesses. Alongside a handful of professional staff members, Community Boards are run by dedicated volunteers who are invested in their neighborhoods and in our City. Our commitment must match theirs. In the Borough President's response to the FY17 Executive Budget, we expressed the large—and increasing—needs of local Community Boards.

In this budget, Manhattan's 12 Community Boards have been allocated around \$4.075 million to account for PS and OTPS costs (including rent). That means that, on average, these crucial government offices will operate on a budget of about \$340,000—with one Community Board being allocated just about \$240,000. This funding level does not represent the necessary commitment on behalf of the City to foster successful, engaged Community Boards. We know and understand the importance of community board recommendations. These funds do not represent what is needed for significant technology and software upgrades as well as continuing maintenance, such as the license fees for GIS. These fees allow the Community Boards to map and visualize critical concerns and to take advantage of the wealth of data available from the city agencies. The FY18 funding levels are not sufficient to allow for the flexibility and bandwidth for coordinated outreach on significant land use proposals – whether it's advanced mailings, copies of the applications, larger hearing rooms, or translation services. The Community Boards are the first line in defense against poor land use planning but without a substantive budget we are not giving the boards the tools to succeed.

As elected officials, and increasingly civically engaged communities, have increased their expectations of Community Boards—including live streaming of open meetings through legislation sponsored by Borough President Brewer, providing translation services, and addressing requests for ASL interpretation—we have not increased our financial commitments to keep up with the additional demand. As we move in the direction of greater transparency of our local affairs through online content and added technology, we must ensure that the technical assistance, physical software, and added staff capacity is available to every single Community Board as needed.

We are recommending an increase to the budgets of each of the 12 Manhattan Community Boards to \$400,000 cover those costs (not including rent). That means that each Community

Board would receive roughly \$167,000 additional dollars for a borough-wide total of about \$2,004,000. While 2 million dollars may represent a drop in the bucket in a budget totaling over 84 billion dollars, it represents a transformative investment into our local communities.

### **Supporting our Immigrant Communities:**

The current climate of our country has fostered a uniquely difficult environment for immigrants—both undocumented and documented—and their families and loved ones. We’ve already seen the negative effects of new federal policies on individuals and families as they have been held up at our airports and as Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have conducted a number of raids within the five boroughs. Without a doubt, our City must respond and stand up for the people who are part of our many diverse communities.

The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), a group made up of state-wide member organizations working on issues facing immigrant populations, expressed the need for our City to take the lead in pushing back against attacks on immigrants. They estimated that the cost of scaling immigrant support services—flexible legal counseling, culturally competent outreach, and government resources navigation support—will cost around \$15 million a year. The NYIC’s own Rapid Response Campaign titled #OurNY will cost 6 million dollars over the coming fiscal year, but does not fully address the great need our City faces.

If we are serious about ensuring that our city is a Sanctuary City in these difficult times, we must include the funds necessary in New York City’s FY18 budget.

*The following items were added as priorities pursuant to a motion adopted at the Manhattan Borough Board Meeting held on Thursday, February 23, 2017:*

### **School Seat Needs:**

One of our City’s most pressing commitments must be to provide a quality education for every child and their family. As we continue to develop buildings and rezone communities, we must pay attention to the way that the need for additional school seats is understood.

In the School Construction Authority’s 2015-2019 Capital Plan, the budget for “New Capacity”, or “new seats” in Manhattan is \$356.5 million dollars. While that represents a significant investment in the creation of additional capacity borough-wide, we don’t think it represents the true need of the borough. **Therefore, we are requesting that the City fund a study to help identify where gaps in “new capacity” exist and what the true cost of addressing this concern would be for Manhattan and the City as a whole.**

**Funding in the Human Services Sector with emphasis on communities suffering from pay disparities:**

Human Service sector non-profit organizations provide close to 2.5 million New Yorkers with services that the City could not handle on its own. They are the organizations that help run after-school programs, senior centers, homeless shelters, and more. They make sure that some of our most vulnerable populations—especially those most affected by disparities in pay and employment opportunities, particularly women and people of color—are not lost as they navigate the complex challenges of their lives.

Currently, the City spends \$4.7 billion every year in Human Services contracts. Unfortunately, as large as that commitment is to this important sector, it is simply not enough. **We are requesting that this administration commit an additional \$500 million (12% increases to contracts) in the upcoming fiscal year.** That allocation will help to ensure that we begin creating equity in the pay structure at these important organizations and acknowledge the increased indirect costs that these organizations are responsible for. Individuals that rely on the services provided by this sector should be able to continue to receive the services they need at the quality that they deserve.

**Investing in Sanitation Facilities that further Environmental Justice Goals:**

The siting of sanitation facilities is not easy, but is important for the overall management of Manhattan's waste management process. New York City's Solid Waste Management Plan established the goal of equal distribution of waste handling facilities as well as the garages that house the vehicles and equipment used by the Department of Sanitation. It is important that equal distribution comes with equal investment in the facilities that are being sited. New facilities should be funded and designed to the highest environmental standards so that garages are built large enough to keep all trucks and other equipment inside of the building and outfitted with the best air filtration system. Additionally, marine transfer stations should be built to ensure that there is no vehicle queuing outside of the facility, they have the best air filters and that the waste is containerized. These facilities are large and will always have impacts on communities, however, we can reduce these impacts with the appropriate standards and funding.

*The foregoing priorities we approved as amended by the Manhattan Borough Board on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.*



In addition to the above priorities, the following items were identified by members of the Borough Board at our January Borough Board meeting held on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. These items are not listed in priority order:

1. Fund city-wide CitiBike plan
2. Fund study for intracity bus management plan
3. Support legal representation in housing court (achieved via Council agreement)
4. Increase the operating budget of the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
  - a. Include funding for parks in newly rezoned neighborhoods
5. Increase human services contracts for organizations doing work on behalf of the City
6. Identify efficiencies in City budget to reduce spending

**Oral testimony for Manhattan Borough President's Office Fiscal Year 2018  
Budget Hearing  
Wednesday, February 15, 2017**

Sophie Winfield-Pust, Age 9  
East Harlem resident, Community District 11

My name is Sophie Winfield-Pust and I am an East Harlem resident. I go to Central Park East One Elementary School and I'm in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. My idea is that I want to make our local swimming pool (at Thomas Jefferson Park) an ice-skating rink in the winter so that the Recreation Center will make more money. Thank you.

**Testimony for Manhattan Borough President's Office Fiscal Year 2018 Budget  
Hearing  
Wednesday, February 15, 2017**

Marie Winfield  
East Harlem resident, Community District 11

Good afternoon, my name is Marie Winfield. I am an East Harlem resident testifying today on my own behalf, and not as a representative of any boards or organizations that I am affiliated with.

I would like to call three budgetary issues that are relevant to the East Harlem community to the attention of the MBPO. First, the capital commitments made to the "Museum for African Art" now known as the Africa Center. Second, the need for a consolidated sanitation garage in Harlem. And lastly, East Harlem parks department sites, especially those next to schools. 30

Just recently, the New York Times reported on the continued issues plaguing the Africa Center, formerly the Museum for African Art, which has received around 30 million dollars in public money according to the Times, yet never opened. Even though the museum as an entity no longer exists, in this year's capital commitment plan there is still funding listed, attributed to a "Museum for African Art" under 3 separate budget lines – PV DN277 for \$2 million, PV MN277 for \$500,000 and PV N277 for another \$2 million 28 thousand –all dedicated to construction or construction – build out phase 2, for what seems to be empty space. I urge the Borough President's office to ask for a full accounting of those funds and to find out whether or not given a change in organization -- from the Museum to the Africa Center -- whether those funds should gone through a process of reauthorization and oversight. Thirty million dollars is surely not a negligible sum to the East Harlem community. If there are funds that have not been disbursed, those monies should be frozen until there is more clarity on what has happened. 1:30

Second, the Department of Sanitation has not responded to the concerns of the community with their proposal to relocate the M11 garage to the Potamkin auto mall, even though they insist this project is currently fully funded. There are long standing budget priorities for a consolidated M10/M11 garage and documented opposition to the current insufficient proposal. When Sanitation says there is no money, it is clear to me that these are questions of environmental justice, where affluent communities in Manhattan are rejecting and fighting these projects (Spring Street/Brookdale) and low-income communities cannot even get them funded... these are questions of not only environmental justice but political will so I hope that the BP's office will be advocating for a sufficient sanitation garage that meets our needs and environmental concerns, where we are projected to double the amounts of solid waste produced under the worst case development scenario of the EH rezoning, which affects all of Manhattan. Sanitation's proposal will be certified soon for ULURP – it is urgent that more funding is acquired to ensure that we end up with a better solution.

Lastly, we have three sites in EH (Cherry Tree playground, Thomas Jefferson Park playground and Poor Richard's Playground) that will lose playground associates, once MTA ends funding for those positions because it is associated with the Phase I 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue subway staging area. It is urgent that funding for those positions be continued and baselined this year. I highly encourage the BP's office to advocate for this funding in this year's budget. Thank you very much for your time.

## **New Yorkers and their Museums - A Potential Cultural Legacy**

By Luis R. Cancel

With Mayor Bill de Blasio beginning his run for a second term, he might want to add a badly needed reform to his goal of expanding equitable treatment and opportunity for the citizens of our city.

As the Mayor and the Dept. of Cultural Affairs are shaping a cultural plan, he should undertake one more policy initiative to shape the City's cultural future: Pay-What-You-Wish admission to all museums of the City for all city residents.

For many New York middle and working-class families current museum admission prices are a barrier to entry. With prices reaching \$25.00 for adults, families with children have to think long and hard before digging into their pockets to visit nearby cultural treasures -- making a museum outing almost as extinct as the dinosaurs at the Museum of Natural History.

We cannot blame the museums -- many strive to minimize the damage of high prices with periodic "free" or "Pay-What-You-Wish" days. But these are "Band-Aids" on open wounds. Museum operating costs are soaring and contributions they receive are shrinking. Only bold public policy can provide a structural solution.

A first step in recognizing this problem is to examine visit rates by resident New Yorkers, and not be appeased by positive press releases that celebrate audience numbers that include millions of non-resident visitors.

The Bloomberg and de Blasio administrations deserves much credit for promoting our city as a tourist destination. Record numbers of tourists -- 58.5 million in 2015 -- have been a boon to our restaurants, hotels, retailers and cultural attractions. Bloomberg himself proclaimed in 2012: "When you ask tourists why they're here, visiting a cultural institution is the number one thing they all talk about."<sup>1</sup>

Mayor de Blasio must confront two interrelated problems if he wants to safeguard the future of our museums: 1) the high cost of admissions; and 2) the low museum visitation rates of African-American, Latino and Asian-American New Yorkers.

Any close examination into audience numbers for museums will find the low participation of minorities and this should be a wake-up call for a "majority minority" city like New York. The Center for the Future of Museums said in 2008: "While the [U.S.] population is already one-third minority, heading towards majority minority, today only 9% of the core visitors to museums are minorities..."<sup>2</sup>

A Smithsonian Institution study examined museum visitation rates by resident ethnic populations in DC. It found a significant shortfall in visits by African-Americans and Latinos, far below their proportion of the city's population.<sup>3</sup>

How could Mayor de Blasio tackle these two related problems and have a lasting impact? First, the initiative needs to be easy and efficient at bifurcating residents from non-resident attendees,

allowing the museums to charge full admission to non-residents. Locals could be asked to show a utility bill and their zip code to allow them to "Pay-What-You-Wish." The difference in price between what they pay and the full admission price would be reimbursed to the museum via a fund administered by the Department of Cultural Affairs. To help profile their audiences' museums could ask visitors if they would be willing to self-identify as members of an ethnic group. It would also be vital to include several flagship museums like the Guggenheim, Whitney and MoMA in this initiative.

How would the City finance such a subsidy? It already has the mechanism in hand: a portion of the hotel tax imposed on every hotel visitor to the City. San Francisco presents a real-world example of how that tax can support the arts. Its hotel tax, established in 1961, allocates 17.3% to support a variety of arts and culture initiatives, 19.6% supports convention and visitors activities and the balance goes into the General Fund to help pay for police, fire, roads and other services. In FY 2011, the San Francisco hotel tax supported the arts to the tune of \$36.7 million.

NYC applies its Hotel Room Occupancy Tax (HROT) to any room in a hotel in the City. Policymakers, however, have resisted calls for this tax to be used, in part, to support the cultural sector, the sector that, according to our Mayor, primarily drives that hotel traffic.

In 2009, the HROT contributed \$342 million to NYC's revenue stream. If we apply the San Francisco percentage (17.3%), the HROT could have earmarked \$59.2 million for a cultural initiative.<sup>1</sup> Since 2009, the City has seen an expansion of its' HROT revenue. A recent report from NY State Comptroller DiNapoli indicated that in FY 2015 Hotel Tax revenue reached \$560 million, with more to come over the next five years.<sup>2</sup> It seems only fair to apply a portion of the HROT to help safeguard the future of New York's museums.

Culture and cultural activity are strategic assets of the City and one of the principle reasons why New York is an international cultural capital. Its citizens should enjoy and be enriched by these cultural assets and access to it should not be limited to the elite segments of our citizens who can afford them, as many studies point out.<sup>3</sup>

Finally, our Mayor might see further advantage in using market forces to help change institutional behavior. The museums are filled with creative, cash-hungry leaders that will quickly recognize that if they cater to a local audience, their organizations might get a larger piece of the "Pay-What-You-Wish" pie. They would increase admissions revenues AND diversify their audiences. It is a win-win model that could lead to a future vision of a broad citizenry participating in the cultural life of the city.

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*Luis R. Cancel is a former Commissioner of the NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs and former Director of Cultural Affairs for the City of San Francisco.*

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<sup>1</sup> Taylor, Kate, "A Record Year for New York Tourism" The New York Times, Dec. 31, 2012

<sup>2</sup> Chung, James, et al., Museums & Society 2034: Trends and Potential Futures (Center for the Future of Museums, 2008), pg. 7

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<sup>3</sup> Smithsonian Institution, Office of Policy & Analysis, "Increasing Museum Visitation by Under Represented Audiences: An Exploratory Study of Art Museum Practices" June, 2001, pg. 4

<sup>4</sup> Ruben, Marilyn Marks, John Jay College, "A GUIDE TO NEW YORK CITY TAXES: HISTORY, ISSUES AND CONCERNS," December 2010, pg. vii

<sup>5</sup> Office of the NY State Comptroller, "The Hotel Industry in New York City" Report 2-2017, June 2016 pg. 6 also NYC Independent Budget Office, Fiscal Brief, "Reestimating the Mayor's Plan: An Analysis of the 2013 Executive Budget & Financial Plan Through 2016" May, 2012, pg. 8

<sup>6</sup> Smithsonian Institution, Office of Policy & Analysis, "Increasing Museum Visitation by Under Represented Audiences: An Exploratory Study of Art Museum Practices" June, 2001, pg. 7 cites the National Endowment of the Arts' 1997 *Survey of Public Participation in the Arts*



The Children's Aid Society  
www.childrensaidsociety.org

**Casper Lassiter, Director of the Dunlevy Milbank Center, The Children's Aid Society**  
**Testimony Prepared for the Manhattan Board Hearing**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 2017**

My name is Casper Lassiter and I am the Director for the Dunlevy Milbank Center at The Children's Aid Society. I would like to thank Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and the entire Manhattan Borough Board for the opportunity to submit testimony on the New York City's FY 2018 Preliminary Budget.

For more than 160 years, Children's Aid has been committed to ensuring that there are no boundaries to the aspirations of young people, and no limits to their potential. We are leading a comprehensive counterattack on the obstacles that threaten kids' achievements in school and in life. Success and strong well-being are contingent upon positive outcomes in four life domains: education, health and wellness, social-emotional development, and family stabilization. At Children's Aid, we are community center directors, teachers and social workers, coaches and health care providers. We know what it takes to ensure children grow up strong and healthy, and ready to thrive in school and life. We have constructed a continuum of services, positioned every step of the way throughout childhood that builds well-being and prepares young people to succeed at every level of education and every milestone of life.

Poverty is extraordinarily complicated. The challenges confronting kids and their families evolve, and Children's Aid changes with them. We constantly evaluate our practices and seek steady improvement in our results. Today our 2,000 plus full and part time staff members empower nearly 50,000 kids and their families at more than 50 locations located in public schools, community centers and community health clinics in four New York City neighborhoods — Harlem, Washington Heights, South Bronx and the northern shore of Staten Island — where poverty long ago established a foothold. Together, we are on a mission to connect children with what they need to learn, grow, and lead a successful, independent life.

The Dunlevy Milbank Center (Milbank) is a comprehensive community facility that has served the Harlem community for nearly 60 years. Deeply committed to ensuring that the neighborhood children and youth become healthy and successful adults, Milbank offers early childhood education programs, an indoor heated swimming pool, a gymnasium with vertical moving walls, a community health clinic, a computer technology lab, an arts and crafts room, a kitchen designed for teaching, a library, outdoor eating area and soccer pitch field.

Delivered in a safe and nurturing environment, Milbank offers nearly 500 children and youth the opportunity to engage in a variety of extended learning activities including: homework help and tutoring, STEAM, through cooking, gardening and computer literacy, visual and performing arts, leadership and development, and sports and fitness. In addition to providing enrichment opportunities, the program is also designed to support the social-emotional development of young people.

A major component of the facility is the competition-size indoor heated swimming pool. In FY 17, the Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and former City Council Member Inez Dickens allocated \$513,000 in funds towards the pool. The pool is a resource that provides year-round access (7 days a week) for the Harlem community to high-quality swim instruction for children and families, competitive and lifeguard training for youth, which leads to summer employment. We also have a nationally competing swim team, the Stingrays, comprised of nearly 80 boys and girls between the ages 8-16, which competes in various meets throughout the year, locally as well as in places like Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. The swim team alone utilizes the pool for practice weekly. There are also free Learn to Swim programs, including Asphalt Green's Waterproofing course, Swim Jim, Fit Splash and Physique Swimming serving nearly 400 people a week. During the school year, more than 500 children, families, seniors and community members utilize the pool. During the summer months over 500 children utilize the pool.

Now over 50 years-old, the Dunlevy Milbank pool (30' x 75') is in need of significant structural repair. The pool needs considerable work and the most immediate issue is the pool's subsurface which has degraded resulting in an ongoing loss of pool floor tiles. We will need to re-concrete affected areas and retile the entire pool as well as replace the filtration system. The total amount to renovate the pool is \$1.1 million.

Although we are extremely grateful for the FY 17 investment and are working with the Economic Development Corporation to ensure that we can utilize the funding to start the first phase of the renovations, the funding is not enough to complete the renovation of the pool and we respectfully request an additional \$500,000 to finalize the pool renovation.

Children's Aid Society sincerely thanks the Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer for your support of the city's neediest families and communities in New York. I also thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony on this issue and welcome any questions regarding this submission.

#### **Budget Overview**

Children's Aid is addressing the infrastructural needs of the pool, but there are still substantial needs that need addressing. Pool area lighting is dim and inefficient. Locker rooms are extremely worn; tiling, lockers, and changing areas are in disrepair and need updating. The shower area needs to be gutted, re-piped and needs extensive fixture replacement.

General pool area: the pool area is functional, but dark and worn looking. We propose to remove the existing tile, replace the lighting with much more efficient and green standard compliant LED lighting. We plan to repaint all walls which will make the area much more vibrant, inviting, safer.

Locker room rehabilitation: Demolition of existing floor tile, lockers, plumbing. Replace all shower plumbing and fixtures. Replace old, worn metal lockers. Replace existing lighting with LED lights, replace benches with updated seating.





The City of New York

## Manhattan Community Board 1

Anthony Notaro, Jr. CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Manhattan Borough Board

FY2018 Preliminary Budget Hearing

Diana Switaj, Director of Planning and Land Use

Guttman Community College

50 West 40<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10018

4:00P.M., Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Good Afternoon. My name is Diana Switaj, Director of Planning and Land Use at Manhattan Community Board 1 which includes most of Manhattan below Canal Street and south of the Brooklyn Bridge, as well as Ellis, Governors and Liberty Islands. Thank you for holding this important public hearing today and inviting testimony on the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2018.

Lower Manhattan continues to be one of America's largest business districts, even after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the financial crisis of 2008 and Superstorm Sandy in October 2012. Our residential population is one of the fastest growing in the whole city. Lower Manhattan remains a resilient place that more and more people want to live, work and visit. We have a lot of work to do to assure that these powerful growth trends result in a district that is livable for all. Our FY2018 budget requests reflect that mission and contain many recurring requests to help accommodate our rapid growth and protect our district. One of our top annual requests is for additional school seats, as our rapid population growth has resulted in chronically overcrowded schools.

We all must work together to ensure that the Lower Manhattan is protected. Two of CB1's top capital budget requests for FY2018 were the following:

- Provide funds to close the funding gap for Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency, for the design and construction of long term resiliency infrastructure in anticipation of future extreme weather events.
- Provide funds for the design and construction of short to medium term resiliency infrastructure in anticipation of future extreme weather events.

At a height of seven feet, CB1 experienced one of the highest inundation levels in Manhattan during Superstorm Sandy. Two people in our district drowned and the storm resulted in billions of dollars of damage to infrastructure, housing and commercial property and utilities. We are concerned about both the short-term and long-term time frame because Lower Manhattan remains largely unprotected approaching the fifth anniversary of Superstorm Sandy. We face an increasing potential for suffering extreme weather events and subsequent financial damage to Lower Manhattan and the City at large.

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CB1 has worked collaboratively with City, State and Federal representatives since October 2012 when Sandy devastated our community. We thank the City for the funds it has already contributed towards resiliency in Lower Manhattan. The Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency project is underway but there is a substantial funding shortfall. CB1 maintains that it is critical to fully finance the Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency project and ensure that our district is protected in the future. It is unclear where the required funding will come from and we urge the City to find ways of securing additional funding sources for the construction of a more resilient Lower Manhattan.

Another top budget request for FY2018 was:

- Funding for traffic and mobility studies in the Financial District, including east of Broadway and south of Park Row, as well as the WTC area, to address safety, sanitation and crowding issues as noted previously by CB1 and numerous other groups, including for example, the "Make Way for Lower Manhattan" initiative.

CB1 has long requested a study of traffic and mobility issues in our district and specifically in the Financial District area. Our street grid is the oldest in the City and was not built to support a high density, 24/7 mixed-use community with car, truck and bus traffic; high volumes of commercial and residential garbage and recycling; pedestrian traffic from residents, commuters and tourists; and security infrastructure that crowds already narrow streets and sidewalks. We reiterate the request for funding to facilitate a study of these conditions as the first step to establishing a proactive, holistic approach to implementing a plan for better managing the unique street and sidewalk conditions in Lower Manhattan.

On February 14, 2017, six of our elected officials co-signed a letter (attached) addressed to the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to support our Board and our community in the request for a comprehensive mobility study for Lower Manhattan. We thank our elected officials for their support and hope that we can work collectively to solve these complex issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on our top budget requests for FY 2018. We urge the city to fund these items.

# The Year of the Senior

## *Older New Yorkers are Community Anchors*

As we age, we build an incredible amount of momentum that powers up the economy, the political system, and communities. Older adults provide invaluable volunteerism, caregiving, and economic input in their neighborhoods. They are keepers of local histories and cultural traditions, and bastions of civic engagement.

## *But there are Challenges to this Momentum*

New York City inadequately invests in its 1.5 million older residents. Incomes fall while the cost of living keeps getting higher—one third of older New Yorkers live at or just above the poverty level. Half of all older New Yorkers are immigrants and more than a third have limited English proficiency. Social isolation is a critical public health issue. Ageism is pervasive and obscures the diversity and growing number of older adults and their community contributions.

## *Actualizing New York City's Potential*

Communities need help to support the strengths of older adults with activities and services that allow them to remain independent, healthy, and connected. Local nonprofits facilitate social engagement, provide accessible transportation, deliver meals, organize visitors for the home-bound, and offer respite to caregivers. Each day, over 55,000 older adults (including thousands of older immigrants) benefit from the safe, culturally competent, and user friendly environment of their senior centers, NORCs, and adult day programs.

## *A Lack of Funding puts Communities at Risk*

Local nonprofits struggle to meet demand due to inadequate funding, difficulty retaining quality staff, and an outdated infrastructure. DFTA's budget has experienced stagnation and dramatic cuts at a time of rapid growth of older adults. DFTA's budget is less than 1% of the city's budget despite older adults comprising more than 18% of the city's population. The human impact of underfunding is severe - growing waiting lists, senior centers in disrepair, and no community-based safety net for older New Yorkers.

## *The Solution: Strengthen the Safety Net for Older New Yorkers*

Now more than ever, as sweeping federal cuts threaten existing safety net programs, the City must commit to fully funding services for older adults with an investment of \$132.8 million over the next five years.

We propose that in FY18—the Year of the Senior—the administration allocate \$60.6 million to baseline discretionary funding for core services and fill the gaps in current services. We also stand with the human service sector ask for a 12 percent increase to all human services contracts to address existing under-funded OTPS costs, raise salaries, and support reasonable fringe benefits. The four following years focus on building the infrastructure for services and responding to changes in needs based on shifting demographics, with an additional \$24.3 million in FY19, \$20.3 million in FY20, and \$13.9 million in FY21 and FY22.

**LiveOn NY**  
Building hope for a better tomorrow

**FPWA**

**United Neighborhood Initiative**

**CITYMEALS**  
ON WHEELS

**UJA Federation**  
NEW YORK

**AARP** Real Possibilities  
**New York**

**caringkind**  
The Heart of Alzheimer's Caregiving

## Year 1: Fund a Safety Net for Older Adults (Total = \$60,608,000)

### FY18 - Baseline discretionary funding for core services: \$15,738,000

Program	Services Provided	Request
DFTA Core Services Enhancement	Supports DFTA's homcare, senior center, and meals programs.	\$660,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Provides on-site services to areas with high numbers of older adult residents.	\$3,850,000
Social Adult Day Care	Provides non-medical adult day care services to individuals with cognitive or physical limitations.	\$950,000
Senior Centers, Programs, and Enhancements	Supports senior centers in order to adequately cover program costs.	\$3,578,000
6 <sup>th</sup> Congregate Weekend Meal	Provides an extra weekend meal to older adults. \$600k for home delivered + \$600k for congregate.	\$1,200,000
Homecare	Provides homecare services to older adults who are not eligible for Medicaid.	\$4,300,000
Case Management Waitlist	Restore funding to address current waitlist for case management.	\$1,200,000

### FY18 - Adequately support current place-based programs: \$44,870,000

Program	Services Provided	Request
Senior Centers	A system wide upgrade, making all senior centers Innovative Senior Centers. This could include hiring social workers and program coordinators, creating culturally competent programs in immigrant communities, adding meals, extending hours, increasing per-meal reimbursement rates, etc.	\$15,000,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Support currently unfunded mandate for nursing hours.	\$1,120,000
Home-Delivered Meals	Increase per-meal reimbursement by 30% to cover years of inflationary increases. (Year 1: from \$8.50 to \$9.50/meal.)	\$3,900,000
Social Adult Day Services	Restore prior City Council funding.	\$2,500,000
Transportation	Restore prior City Council funding and expand access to services.	\$2,000,000
Homecare	Address current waitlist for homecare services.	\$9,000,000
Case Management	Expand services to meet rising demand and prevent waitlists.	\$5,000,000
Caregiver Programs	Expand support and respite programs for growing number of caregivers.	\$4,000,000
Service Coordinators in Affordable Housing	This would include 202 buildings as well as affordable housing that exists and is in development.	\$2,000,000
Elder Abuse	Provide mental health counseling for abuse victims. One counselor per existing elder abuse contract.	\$350,000

## Years 2-5: Build an Infrastructure for senior services

### FY19 - \$24,250,000

Program	Services Provided	Request
Senior Centers	Continue system wide upgrade of senior centers.	\$10,000,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Plan for and develop neighborhood NORCs.	\$1,000,000
Home-Delivered Meals	Increase per-meal reimbursement. (Year 2: \$9.50 to \$10.50/meal.)	\$3,900,000
Social Adult Day Services	Plan for expanding service across the city.	\$1,000,000
Transportation	Continue building infrastructure to meet increasing needs and rising fuel and maintenance costs.	\$1,000,000
Homecare	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$3,000,000
Case Management	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$1,000,000
Caregiver Programs	Build a network of caregiver programs.	\$1,000,000
Service Coordinators in Affordable Housing	This would include 202 buildings as well as affordable housing that exists and is in development.	\$2,000,000
Elder Abuse	Provide mental health counseling for abuse victims. One counselor per existing elder abuse contract.	\$350,000

### FY20 - \$20,250,000

Program	Services Provided	Request
Senior Centers	Continue system wide upgrade of senior centers.	\$6,000,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Continue to develop and expand NORC services.	\$1,000,000
Home-Delivered Meals	Increase per-meal reimbursement. (Year 3: \$10.50 – \$11.50/meal.)	\$3,900,000
Social Adult Day Services	Expand programs across the city.	\$1,000,000
Transportation	Continue building infrastructure to meet increasing needs and rising fuel and maintenance costs.	\$1,000,000
Homecare	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$3,000,000
Case Management	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$1,000,000
Caregiver Programs	Build a network of caregiver programs.	\$1,000,000
Service Coordinators in Affordable Housing	This would include 202 buildings as well as affordable housing that exists and is in development.	\$2,000,000
Elder Abuse	Provide mental health counseling for abuse victims. One counselor per existing elder abuse contract.	\$350,000

**FY21 - \$13,850,000**

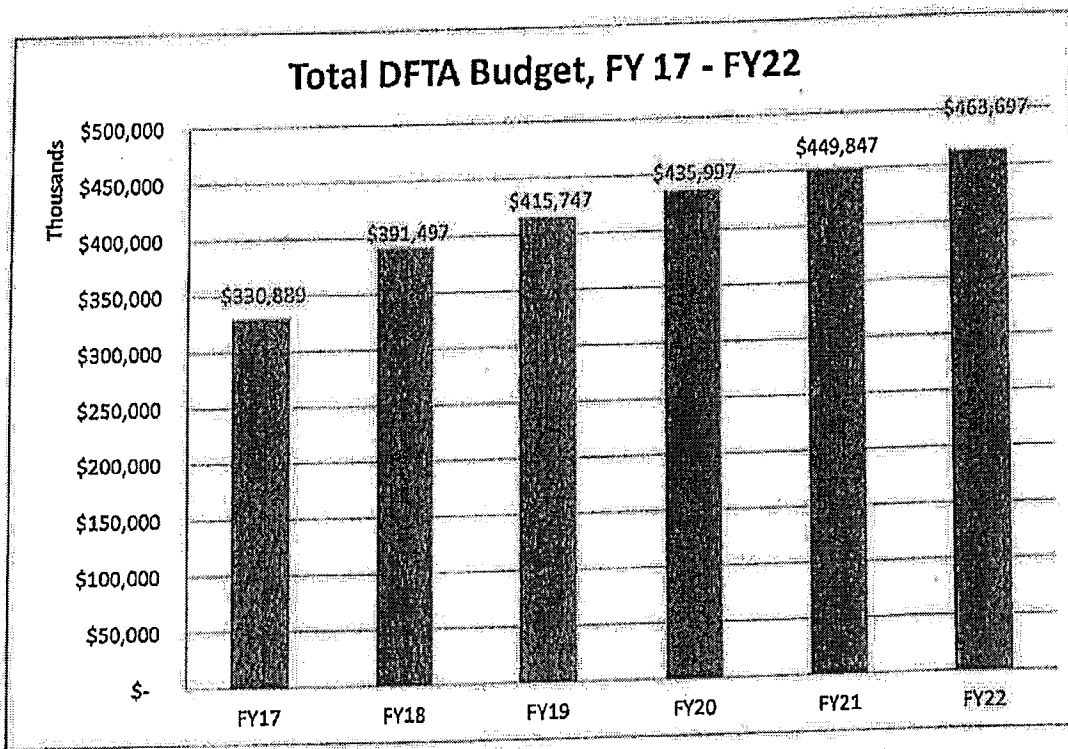
Program	Services Provided	Request
Senior Centers	Continue system wide upgrade of senior centers.	\$3,500,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Continue to develop and expand NORC services.	\$1,000,000
Social Adult Day Services	Expand programs across the city.	\$1,000,000
Transportation	Continue building infrastructure to meet increasing needs and rising fuel and maintenance costs.	\$1,000,000
Homecare	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$3,000,000
Case Management	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$1,000,000
Caregiver Programs	Build a network of caregiver programs.	\$1,000,000
Service Coordinators in Affordable Housing	This would include 202 buildings as well as affordable housing that exists and is in development.	\$2,000,000
Elder Abuse	Provide mental health counseling for abuse victims. One counselor per existing elder abuse contract.	\$350,000

**FY22 - \$13,850,000**

Program	Services Provided	Request
Senior Centers	Continue system wide upgrade of senior centers.	\$3,500,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Continue to develop and expand NORC services.	\$1,000,000
Social Adult Day Services	Expand programs across the city.	\$1,000,000
Transportation	Continue building infrastructure to meet increasing needs and rising fuel and maintenance costs.	\$1,000,000
Homecare	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$3,000,000
Case Management	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$1,000,000
Caregiver Programs	Build a network of caregiver programs.	\$1,000,000
Service Coordinators in Affordable Housing	This would include 202 buildings as well as affordable housing that exists and is in development.	\$2,000,000
Elder Abuse	Provide mental health counseling for abuse victims. One social worker per existing elder abuse contract.	\$350,000

## Summary of Investment Plan for Older New Yorkers

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Yearly Investment		\$ 60,608,000	\$ 24,250,000	\$ 20,250,000	\$ 13,850,000	\$ 13,850,000
Total DFTA Budget	\$330,888,838	\$391,496,838	\$415,746,838	\$435,996,838	\$449,846,838	\$463,696,838





February 14, 2017

Polly Trottenberg  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,


We write regarding pedestrian and vehicle mobility in Lower Manhattan. Since 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy, Lower Manhattan has bounced back and grown to become a thriving commercial district and residential community. In order to maintain this success, we must think critically about how the streetscape can support future growth. For this reason, we join the Financial District Neighborhood Association and Community Board 1 in requesting a comprehensive mobility study for Lower Manhattan to better understand how people and goods move throughout Lower Manhattan.


Lower Manhattan has experienced tremendous growth in the past 15 years. The residential population has more than doubled, and thousands of apartments are scheduled to be built over the next several years. In addition, Lower Manhattan's commercial sector is experiencing tremendous success. Over the next five years, research from Downtown Alliance projects businesses creating over 2.5 million square feet of new retail space and constructing nearly 4,000 hotel rooms, as well as leasing millions of square feet of office space. In addition, New York City has more tourists than ever before, with many popular sightseeing locations in Lower Manhattan.

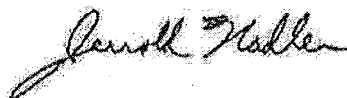
Lower Manhattan's popularity inevitably increases pressure on the area's streetscape, the design of which remains a vestige of the city's earliest days. As a result, broad thinking and innovative solutions are required to ensure this community's growth for businesses and retailers, public transportation, emergency and private vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, and all who depend on this thriving community.


We hope you are able to support this study. Should you have any further questions, please contact our offices.

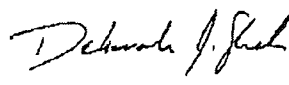
Sincerely,

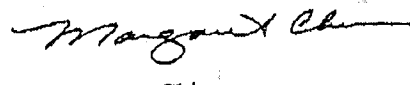
  
Daniel Squadron  
State Senator

  
Yuh-Line Niou  
Assemblymember

  
Jerrold Nadler  
Congressmember

  
Dale Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President

  
Deborah Glick  
Assemblymember

  
Margaret Chin  
Councilmember



**FINANCIAL DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**www.fidinyork.org**

**Manhattan Borough Board  
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's  
Hearing on Mayor's Preliminary FY18 Budget**

**Testimony by Amanda Timchak, Board Member  
Financial District Neighborhood Association**

**CUNY's Guttman Community College  
50 West 40th Street, New York, New York  
Wednesday, February 15, 4:00 pm**

Thank you Borough President Gale Brewer and members of the Manhattan Borough Board for holding this important public hearing today and inviting our testimony. My name is Amanda Timchak and I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Financial District Neighborhood Association, a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to improve the quality of life in the Financial District in Manhattan's Community Board 1.

Vehicular and pedestrian congestion is a major quality of life and safety issue for those that live, work and visit our neighborhood. We have a major problem with placard parking, both legal and illegal, of all kinds. Vehicular congestion is compounded by the sheer number of double-decker tour buses, personal vehicles and commuter buses that fill our streets. This congestion leads to critical issues such as emergency vehicles being impeded by blocked streets, resulting in a dangerous increase in response times.

A Streetscape Study of Lower Manhattan prepared by the CBI Community Planning Fellow, in May of 2016, cataloged a total of 3,039 sidewalk features on Financial District sidewalks, including benches, bike racks, fire hydrants, etc. – almost as many features as the streets of Seaport, Tribeca, and Battery Park City combined.

Lower Manhattan has retained its historic colonial street plan, rather than the traditional New York City grid. The colonial grid was designed at a time of dramatically lower density, and was not built to be flooded with cars, trucks and buses as we see today. Combined with approximately 15 million tourists annually, hundreds of thousands of workers and over 65,000 permanent residents, this makes mobility an inherent problem. A Pedestrian Survey conducted by Community Board 1 in 2015 in conjunction with Pace University and the City College of New York shows that a most respondents identified "overcrowded sidewalks" and "overcrowded streets" as the top two serious problems in our district.

A multitude of factors impede pedestrian mobility in Lower Manhattan. High density buildings stack garbage onto narrow sidewalks, commercial vehicles park on the sidewalk, outdated and cumbersome security infrastructure is scattered through the district, commercial delivery trucks, service vehicles, construction and sidewalk sheds all obstruct the sidewalk. These factors often dangerously force pedestrians into the street, leaving vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians in conflict over the same narrow, shared space. Recently a senior citizen was killed near the Staten Island Ferry and a Millennium High School student was struck by a taxi driver.

CB1 has repeatedly made budget requests for construction and traffic mitigation, and for a plan to improve the streetscape of Lower Manhattan for greater pedestrian flow. In connection with the Fiscal Year 2017 Executive Budget, CB1 requested that the City take a proactive, holistic approach to managing traffic and pedestrian flow in Lower Manhattan and dedicate funding for a modeling study to establish the conditions on the street and sidewalk, and to implement a framework for managed streets in Lower Manhattan. These requests have fallen on deaf ears.

We understand that the NYC Department of Transportation completed the framework for such a study in 2011 and now needs funding to update their numbers and incorporate garbage pickup and commercial freight delivery metrics into their analysis. We understand that less than \$1MM is required to complete this benchmark analysis, so that we can begin working toward a better and safer future.

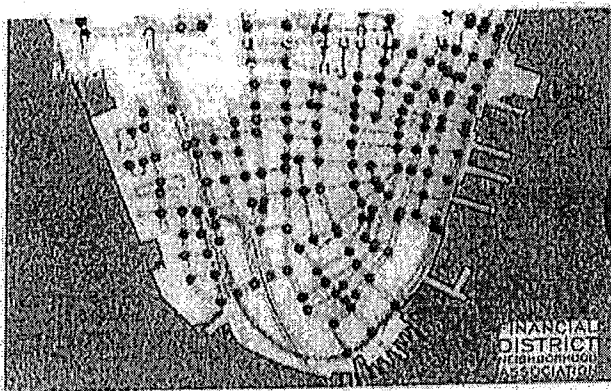
We commend the Mayor and Borough President for their commitment to Vision Zero and the allocation of an additional \$317 million in capital funds for FY18-FY23 to fund new investments to reduce pedestrian fatalities, including pedestrian and traffic safety street reconstruction projects, signal improvements and street lighting at intersections.

We join with CB1 and over 650 of our Lower Manhattan neighbors that have signed our petition requesting a pedestrian traffic safety study. The problems facing Lower Manhattan are unique, and should be managed uniquely, but we can't begin to offer solutions until we can measure the problem. We respectfully ask that the FY18 Budget include a special allocation to complete this long-overdue benchmark analysis.

Thank you for your consideration.

# Funding Request for Lower Manhattan Pedestrian Traffic Safety and Mobility Study

Manhattan Petition by Paul Proulx



662 OF 1,000 NEEDED  
SIGNATURES

With a street grid from the Dutch settlement and Colonial era, overlaid with modern residential high rises and a 24/7 live-work community, Lower Manhattan faces unique challenges from car, bus and truck traffic, garbage collection, and pedestrian and tourist flows. Manhattan's Community Board 1 has the fourth worst air quality of the City's 59 community boards and roughly 75 major construction projects currently taking place. Security infrastructure and enormous piles of trash bags and recycling crowd Lower Manhattan's narrow, congested sidewalks. We call on our elected officials to undertake a comprehensive survey and action plan to measure and mitigate these unique stressors on our neighborhood's quality of life and create a more livable,

Title

First Name

Last Name

Address

City

State

ZIP Code

email@domain.com

Sign Petition →

Your letter will be emailed to: (see recipients)

LAST UPDATED 2/14/17

SHARE THIS PETITION **f**  
([HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM](http://www.facebook.com/sharer)  
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//CAMPAIGNS.TRANSALT.ORG  
/PETITION/LOWER-MANHATTAN-

walkable Lower Manhattan.

Our request is consistent with the City's Vision Zero plan and is especially urgent after the recent tragic case of an MTA bus hitting and killing a woman near the Staten Island Ferry Terminal at State and Water streets in the Financial District on October 22, 2016. It is also consistent with the Manhattan Community Board 1 position: CB1 unanimously passed a resolution on June 28, 2016 requesting that the NYC Department of Transportation review the increased congestion due to the tripling of residential population since 9/11 and tripling of annual tourists to 15 million.

It is time for the City to take a proactive, holistic approach to managing traffic and pedestrian flow in the historic street grid of Lower Manhattan. We support CB1's request that the City dedicate funding for a modeling study to establish conditions on the street and sidewalk, and implement a framework for managed streets and traffic improvements in Lower Manhattan. The problems facing Lower Manhattan are unique, and require unique solutions.

Please join us in requesting public funding to develop solutions for these problems.

For background, please see these links:

MOBILITY-STUDY&TITLE=SIGN  
THE PETITION FUNDING  
REQUEST FOR LOWER  
MANHATTAN PEDESTRIAN  
TRAFFIC SAFETY AND MOBILITY

STUDY) 

([HTTP://TWITTER.COM/INTENT/TWEET?STATUS=SIGN THE PETITION FUNDING REQUEST FOR LOWER MANHATTAN PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC SAFETY AND MOBILITY STUDY+HTTPS://CAMPAIGNS.TRANSALT.ORG/PETITION/LOWER-MANHATTAN-MOBILITY-STUDY](http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?status=sign%20the%20petition%20funding%20request%20for%20lower%20manhattan%20pedestrian%20traffic%20safety%20and%20mobility%20study&https://campaigns.transalt.org/petition/lower-manchattan-mobility-study))

THIS PETITION RECENTLY SIGNED

BY:

STEFAN Z. OF MANHATTAN

TIMOTHY O. OF MANHATTAN

MILDA D. OF MANHATTAN

COLLEEN O. OF MANHATTAN

CECILE H. OF MANHATTAN

Continued Call for Funding for a  
Comprehensive Traffic and Street  
Mobility Study in Lower Manhattan -  
Manhattan's Community Board 1, June  
28, 2016 Resolution: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb1/downloads/pdf/Resolutions/16-06-28.pdf>  
(<http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb1/downloads/pdf/Resolutions/16-06-28.pdf>), pages 12-14/41

New York City Council Fiscal Year  
2017 Executive Budget Hearing  
Transportation Testimony:  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb1/downloads/pdf/Testimonies/Exec%20Budget\\_T...](http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb1/downloads/pdf/Testimonies/Exec%20Budget_T...)  
([http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb1/downloads/pdf/Testimonies/Exec%20Budget\\_Transportation\\_5%2024%202016.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb1/downloads/pdf/Testimonies/Exec%20Budget_Transportation_5%2024%202016.pdf))

CBS Coverage of Pedestrian Death:  
<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2016/10/22/bus-driver-charged-after-dragging...>  
(<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2016/10/22/bus-driver-charged-after-dragging-woman/>)

**This petition will be delivered to:**

Manhattan Community Board 1, Council Member  
Margaret Chin, Manhattan Borough President Gale  
Brewer, Public Advocate Letitia James, NYS Senator  
Squadron, Assembly Member Ntou

▼ SHOW LETTER