

New York City Council Committee on Governmental Operations

**Testimony of Department of Citywide Administrative Services Commissioner
Yume Kitasei**

March 13, 2026

Gale A. Brewer, Chair

Members: Eric Dinowitz, Oswald J. Feliz, Ty Hankerson, Frank Morano, Althea V. Stevens and Susan Zhuang

Introduction

Good afternoon, Chair Brewer and members of the Committee on Governmental Operations.

I am Yume Kitasei, commissioner of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). As I begin my second month at the agency, I am pleased join you all to discuss the preliminary DCAS budget for fiscal year 2027.

It's an honor and a privilege to serve as commissioner of an agency that plays a critical role in the day-to-day operations of keeping our city of over eight million people moving.

DCAS is the backbone of the city's service delivery, providing operational support for our workforce, facilities, fleet, and energy needs, as well as real estate and procurement services.

As you will hear today, we are committed as ever to delivering these core services reliably, so we all can focus on better serving New Yorkers.

DCAS Accomplishments

I want to take a moment to review the agency's accomplishments over the fiscal year to date.

Energy and Climate Accomplishments

We are dedicated to making sure our streets and municipal buildings are among the greenest in the nation.

Last December, we announced that since 2006, the city government had reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 31%, outpacing the private sector by over six percentage

points. At the same time, government operations have reduced energy consumption overall by nearly 16%. In short, our facilities are utilizing cleaner sources of energy—like solar—and consuming less of it, all while steadily increasing service delivery.

Despite our progress, there's still important work to be done. Local Law 97 is a necessarily ambitious mandate to match the greatest existential crisis of our time, and as we've shared with this Committee, we've faced setbacks ranging from the disruption of the pandemic to supply chain challenges. Notwithstanding this, we anticipate that with our current achievements and additional sources of clean energy coming online this year, we are on track to meet the mandate in the local law by 2030.

Much like the work we've done in Energy, we've also made tremendous strides in upgrading, updating, and greening our municipal fleet. We have the largest and cleanest fleet in the nation, and, in partnership with DOT, we operate the largest electric charging networks in the state. Our current count of plug-in electric vehicles stands at over 5,750, with orders in place to reach 6,100 in the coming months. To complement the growth of our electric fleet, we installed and operate over 2,400 charging ports, with the goal of bringing at least 50% of these to environmental justice communities.

In totality, out of 29,000 municipal vehicles, over 22,000 of them use alternative fuels, including electric, hybrid, solar, and biofuels. Thanks to the work of our Fleet Management team, we've reduced greenhouse gas fleet emissions in the city 46% through FY24 and will exceed 50% reduction in FY25's reporting.

Workforce

At DCAS, we're responsible for maintaining the city as an employer of choice for New Yorkers. Our priority is to help agencies fill critical positions, offer more promotional opportunities to our city workers, and break down barriers to entry.

Over the past two years, we have undertaken an effort to review the minimum qualification requirements of entry-level, supervisory, and managerial titles. This review is to determine whether the existing qualifications for the positions accurately define expectations or could be revised. Through this review, we are looking to reduce unnecessary barriers to entry in civil service, increase candidate pools and pipelines, and align NYC government qualification requirements with other sectors and municipalities to increase competition. To date, I'm proud to share that nearly 70 titles have been revised, with 13 more in review, potentially increasing access to municipal work for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. This effort is ongoing, and we expect to review additional titles this year.

Further expanding our reach, we have continued to offer Bridge Exams, another DCAS innovation, in an effort to increase access to municipal work. These exams offer the public the opportunity to take one multiple-choice test for multiple titles, and have their

name appear on multiple civil service lists simultaneously. In short, what would have required someone to take four different tests, pay four different fees, and wait for four different exams to be graded, is now done in one convenient exam.

Administration

Putting the “administration” in the Department of Administrative Services, our behind-the-scenes teams have been working to deliver as well.

Our Office of Citywide Procurement is the engine that keeps our sister agencies stocked with the materials needed to execute their missions. With nearly 650 active citywide requirement contracts for goods and services on behalf of all city agencies, departments, boards, and authorities, we leverage the city’s buying power to deliver critical supplies.

Most recently, our office played a critical role in the city’s rapid response to the historic snowfall this winter. In the past several months alone, our central storehouse has delivered over 1 million pounds of salt to DSNY and DOT to keep our roads clear and passable, and distributed thousands of blankets to partner agencies for vulnerable populations.

A bit closer to home, last fall, we renovated the brick-and-mortar CityStore located at 1 Centre Street; modernizing and brightening the storefront with a fresh, open design. The in-house renovation boasted a new dedicated entrance directly from Centre Street, welcoming foot traffic and making the store more accessible and inviting for both locals and visitors alike. We’ve also revamped and expanded the store’s digital footprint – launching a new online experience with a website that mirrors the energy and modern feel of the physical space and brand-new social media accounts to reach even more customers.

And most excitingly, we have announced a brand-new municipal childcare initiative at 1 Centre Street. Work is already underway on the new facility adjacent to the CityStore with the goal of opening the new program in the fall.

Understanding the DCAS Budget

As we look ahead to the next fiscal year, we’ll take you through the DCAS budget. As the primary service provider for city agencies, much of our budget is dedicated to supporting the critical functions of their daily operations. In fact, 70% of our operating budget is dedicated to citywide utility and leasing costs alone.

Operating Budget

In FY27, our operating budget is \$1.7 billion, inclusive of all funding sources, with \$244.1 million covering payroll and other personnel services (PS) costs, and \$1.4 billion covering other than personnel services (OTPS) costs. \$1 billion, or 61% of our budget, will be used to support citywide utility payments for heating, lighting, and power. These are fixed costs based on forecasted energy usage and utility rates. The good news is that DCAS is working every day, both internally and with our sister agencies through multiple programs, to reduce energy use. I'm proud to say that this work has generated more than \$156 million in annual energy cost savings since 2014.

Beyond providing utilities to our sister agencies, we are also tasked with identifying physical spaces for city agencies and other public entities to meet their operational needs. When a need arises and city-owned space is not available or feasible, our real estate team identifies and negotiates leases on behalf of the city. Of our overall budget, \$170 million is dedicated to these costs associated with multi-tenanted leased sites.

In addition to these efforts, we have also invested in extensive maintenance, repair and energy efficiency work across our portfolio of city-managed buildings.

To support these efforts, our FY27 budget includes:

- \$157.2 million to support cleaning, maintenance and repair work across DCAS-managed buildings
- And \$109.8 million to achieve the city's climate goals as outlined in Executive Order 89 and Local Law 97.

Revenue Generation

Given DCAS' role as a citywide service provider, we are also thinking about ways to increase revenue opportunities to the city's general fund. Every year, DCAS generates a significant amount of revenue on the city's behalf. In FY27, our revenue target is \$62 million, primarily due to two areas:

- \$41.2 million in private rentals of city-owned properties, DCAS' largest source of recurring revenue.
- \$7.9 million for the sale of surplus vehicles and other city-owned equipment.

DCAS Capital Plan

The final piece of our budget is our capital plan, including the funds allocated towards upgrading and renovating our infrastructure. The preliminary budget reflects an updated five-year plan of \$7.6 billion from FY26 through FY30, including \$4.2 billion for projects managed by DCAS. This plan includes maintenance and enhancements to our facilities, the renovation of leased spaces, and continuing our energy conservation and fleet electrification work.

The preliminary budget for DCAS-managed projects in FY27 is \$855.7 million and includes:

- \$522.4 million for energy conservation and green energy projects.
- \$310.3 million to support our capital construction program for city-owned offices and court buildings.
- \$6.9 million for information technology system upgrades to improve our Human Capital front-end systems, Internal Agency Application Support, and the modernization of our Civil Service Exams system infrastructure.
- And lastly, \$15 million for fleet electrification work.

Conclusion

As we work through the budgeting process, we will continue to advance the core missions of this agency and uplift innovative ideas to make this city work better for New Yorkers and our sister agencies.

Among these, leading into Fiscal Year 2027, we will double down on our efforts to modernize the civil service system and speed up hiring efforts, critical for filling vacancies across the city. We will also lean into our work to reduce carbon emissions through electrification and retrofitting existing infrastructure as we advance towards our local law mandates. And, for the first time ever, we will be offering free, open-to-the-public tours of the Municipal Building cupola, allowing all visitors the chance to see not only our skyline, but the full breadth of the city.

In closing, I want to thank the Council for its partnership and for providing me with the opportunity to testify. I look forward to working with each of you to improve our operations and advance our mission. With that, I would be happy to answer any questions.

**Statement by Corporation Counsel Steven Banks to the City Council
In Connection with the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2027
March 13, 2026**

Good afternoon, Chair Brewer and Members of the Government Operations Committee as well as other members of the Council. It is a pleasure to come before you to discuss the Law Department's fiscal year 2027 Preliminary Budget. I'm joined by First Assistant Corporation Counsel Sheryl Neufeld, Managing Attorney Eric Eichenholtz, and Chief of Administration Jennie Nagle-Yndigoyen.

The Law Department represents the City, the Mayor, the City Council, other elected officials and the City's agencies in all affirmative and defensive civil litigation. The Department brings proceedings in Family Court alleging violations of criminal laws and represents the People of the State of New York in proceedings filed in Criminal Court to enforce the City's Administrative Code. Law Department attorneys draft and review local and state legislation, real estate leases, procurement contracts and financial instruments for the sale of municipal bonds. The Department also provides legal counsel to City officials on a wide range of issues such as civil rights, education, intellectual property, land use and environmental policy. The Department's work embraces all City entities and operations; our work impacts all areas of daily living in New York City .

The Department currently has approximately 785 assistant corporation counsels and 600 legal support professionals. We are proud to be a leader in the legal profession with approximately 31% of our lawyers racially and ethnically diverse and 58% percent women. Over the past few years, headcount reductions have impaired the Law Department's ability to fulfil its mission in representing the City, it's elected officials, including the Council, and other City entities. The 200

new attorney lines and 100 professional support lines provided to the Law Department in the proposed budget will be allocated to support all areas of the Law Department. This increased staffing will help mitigate the increases in monetary settlements and payouts resulting from a number of factors, including the Law Department's reduced headcount in the past administration. The increase in staff will allow us to restore our ability settle meritorious cases earlier and make dispositive motions or try cases that lack merit, reducing payouts in both types of cases. Other new staff will focus on enhancing the Law Department's ability to advise and support the City through legal advice and affirmative litigation initiatives. The new staffing will also enable the Department to increase the provision of risk assessments in order to help agencies reform practices and avert litigation against the City in the first place. Through all this, we will advance the City's affordability agenda as well as the interests of the City, the Mayor, the Council and other elected officials.

A large focus of the Law Department's work this past year has been addressing potential challenges regarding federal funding requirements, which have changed and evolved rapidly over the last year. To do so, we have set up a special team to focus exclusively on these emerging challenges. Our work has already been critical, safeguarding billions of dollars of federal grants that touch on all aspects of municipal life, including infrastructure, policing, housing, social services, and mission-critical objectives such as disaster mitigation and counterterrorism efforts. With the increased staffing, we will be positioned to litigate – affirmatively and defensively – to protect the City's rights and interests.

For example we brought a lawsuit to protect funding the City received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") in accordance with federal law to reimburse the City for services to asylum seekers. We sued to

protect NYC Public Schools' magnet school funding that was cut based on purported violations of Title IX due to the Public Schools' Guidelines to Support Transgender & Gender Expansive Students. We also joined coalitions of other cities and states to challenge grant conditions that violated federal law because they are intended to commandeer recipients to enforce federal immigration policy and federal Executive Orders, among other things.

Similarly, we filed and joined more than 25 amicus briefs on topics such as immigration enforcement, federal funding, deployment of the National Guard, and New Yorkers' rights and benefits, to ensure that the City's voice is heard as Courts consider these emergent legal issues, even in circumstances where the City is not a party.

At my confirmation hearing before the Council, I emphasized the importance of the Law Department being promptly attentive to the needs of all its individual and institutional clients, including the Council. Since assuming the position of Corporation Counsel, I am pleased to report that we have been working in collaboration with the Speaker and the Council in a number of areas. Individual members of the Council have also reached out to me directly to discuss matters of concern.. Our office will continue to work side by side with Council staff on crafting legislation, providing legal advice in a timely manner and ensuring legal clarity and defensibility in doing so. An excellent example of this is our recent work together on procurement reform legislation.

The Law Department's work is both revenue saving and revenue generating. For example, in FY25, the Department saved the City \$128 million by resolving \$140 million dollars in claims in contractual disputes for a total of \$12 million. Similarly, the Department's defense of real property tax assessments protected \$96

million in property tax receipts in FY25 and almost \$65 million during the first half of FY26, which preserved funding for City services.

During this fiscal year so far, the Department has recovered over \$35 million for the City and City entities. This includes monetary recoveries for property damage, breach of contract, restitution, false claims act cases, securities fraud, public health and safety matters, including anti-youth vaping and tenant protection/code enforcement cases, and opioids settlement payments, among other things. In this year fiscal year, collection law firms supervised by the Division recovered another \$30 million.

In addition to recovering monetary damages, the Department sues to enjoin unlawful or harmful practices that cause or contribute to a public nuisance, or otherwise negatively affect public health and safety. For example, we are currently litigating against Kia and Hyundai over their failure to install industry-standard engine immobilizing technology in low-end models of their vehicles, which, when highlighted as part of a TikTok challenge, led to a massive spike in thefts of those models in the City, as well as dangerous driving, property damage, injuries and deaths. We are also currently litigating against four major social media companies for the harms that have resulted to the mental health of young people, and the costs those harms impose on the City, as a result of the deliberate design, marketing, and operation of addictive social media platforms which intentionally target our youth. And, as was reported yesterday, we recently obtained a ruling assessing \$2.1 million in fines against a landlord who has failed to make repairs to a residential building and \$1,000 in ongoing daily fines until the conditions are corrected. These cases and other litigation aim to change behavior by compelling compliance with city law and policy, to enhance public health and safety, and protect New Yorkers from unlawful and harmful conduct.

We also anticipate saving the City over \$100 million dollars this Fiscal Year in payouts from the judgment and claims fund through our continuing activity to compel insurance companies to defend and indemnify the City. This program, which began in the late 1990s, has saved more than three billion dollars in judgments and claims payments through insurance takeovers since its inception. Every case that the insurance company steps up to defend is a case that does not have to be defended by city attorneys, thus saving enormous legal resources. Settlements and judgments paid by insurers in cases falling within the policy coverage also save the City substantial sums.

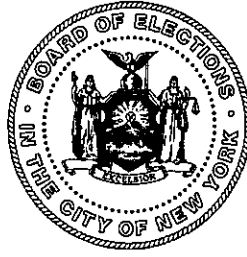
The Law Department represents the City in litigation in more than 70,000 cases annually. We continue to experience an increase in pending cases. Approximately half of our pending cases—some 35,000—involve tort matters. These pending cases include a large number of Adult Survivor Act and Child Victims Act cases, and we anticipate a continued influx of these cases, which involve claims of misconduct that occurred many years ago. We also expect a continued increase in Gender Motivated Violence Act cases with claims for past conduct. Given the significant fiscal impact of these cases on the City, we are looking for solutions that give the City certainty regarding exposure while properly compensating survivors with meritorious claims.

The Department also serves as the statutorily mandated Presentment Agency for all Juvenile Justice, Adolescent Offender and Interstate Child Support cases referred to the New York City Family Court. Under the rehabilitative mandate of the Family Court Act, the Department must work to achieve outcomes that serve the needs of each individual young person brought before the court, while at the same time, protecting the interests of crime victims and ensuring the safety of the community at large. Law Department attorneys also appear in New York City

Family Courts to handle petitions to establish parentage, and obtain, modify, or enforce an existing child support order. In 2025, Juvenile Justice case referrals increased by 11% to 7,740 from 6964 referrals in 2024; 66% of the referrals represent felony charges. In 2025, there were 348 firearms cases referred to the Department, which is a decrease of 15% from 411 firearms cases in 2024. The number of Child Support referrals in 2025 remained virtually the same with 1,889 child support referrals in 2024 and 1,894 in 2025.

My testimony today provides an overview of the very broad and varied legal work performed by the Law Department. By keeping the interests of all New Yorkers at the center of our work, we can do what is right and just, solve problems, reinforce trust in government, and help meet the needs of New Yorkers.

I thank you for your support of the Law Department and look forward to our continued collaboration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



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Testimony of Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director and Vincent M. Ignizio, Deputy Executive Director – The Board of Elections in the City of New York

Before the New York City Council Committees on Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation and Finance Regarding the Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget

March 13, 2026

Chair Brewer, Chair Lee, members of the Committees on Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation and Finance, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the Board of Elections (Board). I am Michael J. Ryan, the Executive Director of the Board.

Joining me are Deputy Executive Director Vincent Ignizio and Operations Manager Georgea Kontzamanis

Fiscal Year 2026 Review

Before discussing the Mayor's Executive Budget for FY 2027, let me thank the City Council and the Mayor's Office for providing the necessary support to the Board in FY 2026. That funding met the Board's constitutional and statutory mandates as well as the needs of the voters of the City of New York. I extend a special thank you for addressing the Board's funding needs during very difficult times.

In FY 2026, the Board conducted several election events, including the Mayoral General Election conducted on November 4, 2025 General Election, Special Elections for New York State Senate District 47 and New York State Assembly Districts 36 and 74 conducted on February 3, 2026, and will conduct a special election for the 3rd Council District on April 28, 2026 and June 2026 Primary Election (federal and state

primaries). These included nine days of Early Voting for each applicable event. The Board successfully maintained 156 Early Voting sites across the five boroughs under the Make Voting Easy Act, ensuring accessible voting for all contests.

In FY 2026, the Board managed multiple election events with significant turnout across the General Election and primary/special elections, and total operating expenses estimated at \$263 million (Personal Services approximately \$126 million; Other Than Personal Services approximately \$137 million). Pollworkers and related seasonal costs represented a major driver, followed by leases, services, printing, and transportation. Voter outreach generated substantial impressions through various media channels, and operations maintained 156 Early Voting sites with minimal equipment issues.

The Board complies with the New York State Election Law requirements for mail ballot canvassing requiring extended public access prior to Election Day, the statewide online mail ballot application and tracking portal, online voter registration and automatic voter registration initiatives. Such compliance has ongoing budget/fiscal implications. The Board works closely with OMB to manage these mandates and finalize funding for all elections.

The Board works very closely with the Office of the New York State Attorney General to ensure full compliance with the New York State Voter Rights Act (also known as the John Lewis Voter Rights Act).

Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027

The Board expresses its gratitude to the City Administration and the City Council for partnering with the Board.

For FY 2027, the Board projects a budget of \$280 million to meet the demands of a major statewide cycle while addressing critical infrastructure upgrades. The Board is requesting approximately \$130 million to be allocated to Personal Services (PS) and \$150 million to be allocated to Other Than Personal Services (OTPS), including one-time capital investments.

In FY 2027, the Board will conduct two major election events: the November 3, 2026 General Election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor (along with any accompanying statewide, congressional, or state legislative races) and a Primary Election on June 22, 2027. Each event includes nine days of Early Voting.

Conducting Early Voting for a continuous nine-day period has fundamentally altered the Board's approach to elections, transitioning from single-day events to 10-day operations over approximately two weeks. Maintaining 156 Early Voting sites necessitates additional funding for equipment, office space, staff, training, leasing, poll site costs, and public education to meet increasing demands from statewide contests.

The budget also includes essential upgrades and enhancements to ensure reliable, secure, and accessible elections:

Replacement of 2,287 and may require an additional 700 (or more) Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) at an estimated \$8,000 per unit, and additional ancillary equipment totaling approximately \$30 million. This addresses end-of-life concerns, memory limitations, and compatibility issues in the current fleet, ensuring full accessibility for voters with disabilities in compliance with HAVA requirements and supporting high-turnout statewide elections. It must be clearly noted that replacement BMD devices, compatible with the Board's current voting machines have not been certified by the New York State Board of Elections. The Board is not permitted to utilize any BMD's unless the New York State Board of Elections completes its certification process. Accordingly, the Board is providing this information to advise that the certification process is underway and is anticipated to be completed at the end of FY 26. Upon

certification, the Board intends to submit the replacement costs as a new need during FY 27.

To ensure compatibility with Windows 11 and continued enhancement of cybersecurity all computers utilized by Board staff must be replaced. The cost for such replacement is estimated at up to \$8 million. This includes workstations, administrative systems, and to prevent vulnerabilities, support modern voter registration/absentee portals, and maintain secure operations.

Replacement of 4 aging Sprinter vans used for transporting voting equipment and supplies, estimated at \$300,000–\$500,000. These vehicles are critical for logistics across 156 Early Voting sites and 1,200+ Election Day locations, particularly during extended Early Voting periods and multi-event cycles. The Board is working with DCAS to finalize the approval process for the purchase of vehicles that fully meet the needs of the Board's operational requirements.

These capital investments, coordinated with the Office of Technology and Innovation and fleet management protocols, are vital to prevent disruptions in the 2026 gubernatorial cycle and align with ongoing mandates for secure, accessible voting. The Board is committed to phasing these where possible to manage fiscal impact.

The Board will continue appropriate outreach to voters and poll workers. The Board reaffirms its request to establish a municipal workers/poll workers program.

Ongoing voter education remains essential. The Board will implement media campaigns in partnership with groups like the Campaign Finance Board (CFB) for message consistency and broad coverage, building on successful outreach in prior cycles (e.g., millions of impressions and website visits).

Expanded Early Voting heightens cybersecurity needs. The Board maintains ongoing monitoring and a strong relationship with OTI. The New York State Board of Elections directs enhanced requirements necessitating additional staffing. The Board must implement an internal cybersecurity taskforce with added staff (including potential Tier Grant support).

Conclusion

The Board is committed to working closely with its government partners and interested parties to effectively serve the voters of the City of New

York. Any resources allocated will be used responsibly to meet the needs of the voting public.

The Board remains sensitive to the City's fiscal challenges and mindful of its obligations. The Board is committed to the partnership with this Administration and Council. The Board is confident that the additional funding requests, including these essential upgrades, will enhance our ability to serve voters. The Board reaffirms its commitment that allocated resources will be wisely utilized and public trust will continue to be its guidepost.

As always, my colleagues and I are available to answer any questions and provide additional information.



**Statement by
Chief Administrative Law Judge & Commissioner Vilda Vera Mayuga
of the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings
to the City Council Committee on Governmental Operations, State & Federal
Legislation in Connection with the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2027**

March 13, 2026

Good afternoon, Chair Brewer and members of the Committee on Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation. My name is Vilda Vera Mayuga and as Chief Administrative Law Judge and Commissioner of the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH), I thank you for the opportunity to testify today about the Tribunal's work over the past year and the budget projection for this coming year.

OATH is New York City's central and independent administrative law tribunal. As I start leading this tribunal, I am confident in our continuing to deliver our mission to ensure due process, fair and impartial hearings, and timely decisions for everyone who comes before OATH.

In calendar year 2025 alone, we received over 1 million summonses, held over 250,000 hearings, issued over 1,800 appeals decisions, conducted over 500 trials, and closed nearly 18,000 special education cases. Overall, this is an increase from the volume of work we did in calendar year 2024. These tremendous figures are a testament to the amazing public servants who are part of the OATH team. In each of these hundreds of thousands of cases, the committed staff at OATH take great care to ensure that every party who appears before us is treated impartially and is accorded due process.

We accomplish this by having administrative law judges and judicial hearing officers who listen to all sides, review the evidence without favor, apply the law fairly, and avoid external influence. At OATH, we believe that there is one standard of justice for all; the members of the public who have cases at OATH are treated no differently from the city agencies that appear before us. We do not take direction from any city agency on our cases. Our role is to adjudicate cases, not to set policy.

Budget and Headcount

OATH's Fiscal Year 2026 adopted budget was \$80.9 million and the current modified budget is \$81.8 million.

OATH's total preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2027 will be \$80.1 million, including \$62.7 million in personnel services and \$17.4 million in other-than-personnel-services.

Our authorized headcount is set at 470 in the Fiscal Year 2027 preliminary budget. This does not include the currently active 172 per session Judicial Hearing Officers in the Hearings Division, all of whom work on a part-time schedule.

Adjudications

OATH has three separate units that conduct adjudications: the Trials Division, the Hearings Division, and the Special Education Hearings Division. The law will generally specify which cases go to which division, and all divisions offer in-person and remote options for the parties to appear and present their cases.

Trials Division

OATH's Trials Division adjudicates a wide range of cases filed by City agencies, boards, and commissions. Trials are conducted by Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) who are appointed to five-year terms. The Division's caseload includes employee discipline and disability hearings for civil servants, as well as cases involving City-issued license suspensions and revocations, City vendor contract disputes, the Conflicts of Interest Law, the City Human Rights Law, consumer and worker protection laws, the Loft Law, short-term rentals (such as Airbnb), press passes, watershed protection, retention of police-seized vehicles prior to forfeiture proceedings, and campaign finance violations.

During the first half of FY26, the Trials Division heard 152 cases and more than 94% of the decisions issued by OATH ALJs were adopted by the agency heads who referred those cases to OATH.

Hearings Division: Adjudications, Clerk's Office, and Appeals

The OATH Hearings Division is comprised of Adjudications, Clerk's Office, and Appeals. Adjudications conducts hearings on summonses issued by more than 20 different City enforcement agencies for alleged violations of law or City rules. City enforcement agencies that issue these summonses include the Department of Buildings, the Department of Sanitation, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Fire Department, the Parks Department, the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Finance's Office of the Sheriff, and the Taxi and Limousine Commission.

During the first half of FY26, the Hearings Division processed 509,948 summonses, heard 256,992 cases, and handled 875 appeals. This reflects an increase of 14% in cases heard from the prior year. Although respondents have the option to appear to a hearing in person, most continue to take advantage of our telephonic hearings: a safe, easy, and convenient option. Our Clerk's Office assists respondents with scheduling remote hearings by email, and offering a call-back option to eliminate the need to wait on hold for the hearing officer to start their case.

Special Education Hearings Division

The Special Education Hearings Division handles filings related to claims for services for students with special needs. Each complaint is assigned to an Impartial Hearing Officer, who must adjudicate the matter in a fair and timely manner.

As of March 2nd, there have been 12,742 cases filed in Fiscal Year 2026, and cases continue to be filed each day. Of those cases filed, the Division has closed approximately 6,780 and I am happy to report that 89% of cases closed this year have been closed within the statutory compliance deadline.

Center for Creative Conflict Resolution

Since 2016, OATH's Center for Creative Conflict Resolution (CCCR) has served as the City government's central resource for conflict resolution services and restorative practices in support of City government agencies, businesses and the general public. CCCR offers a number of workplace conflict services for City agencies, including mediations, conflict coaching, group facilitation, restorative circles, dispute system design services, education, and training. A primary goal of CCCR is to support city government agencies and offices build alternative dispute resolution and restorative programs to strengthen agencies' internal conflict resolution capacity, including in their public facing work. During the past year, CCCR has provided 476 consultations, coaching sessions, conflict resolution and restorative practices trainings, workplace and community mediations, and group facilitations.

Access to Justice

OATH's mission requires it to prioritize the public's access to justice. To do so, OATH ensures language access services, serves respondents through the Help Center, and conducts outreach.

Language Access

OATH ensures information is accessible by providing it in plain language and translating it into the top 10 languages spoken in NYC. Everyone has access to free translation services for help sessions, trials, hearings, community service and mediations. OATH also makes its forms and applications available in the top ten languages as well as other documents such as outreach flyers, informational fact sheets and handouts.

Additionally, OATH provides hearing decisions in any language requested by a respondent, free of charge at both of its high-volume adjudicatory divisions, namely the OATH Hearings Division and the OATH Special Education Hearings Division. The NYC Comptroller audited OATH's language access services in late 2025 and found that OATH had institutionalized language access and was in compliance with all language access laws and regulations. OATH is proud to report that the Comptroller had no recommendations for improvement in this area.

Help Center

Not having a lawyer should not limit one's ability to navigate OATH's processes. Without providing legal advice, OATH's Help Center ensures that unrepresented respondents receive answers to their questions, are aware of their rights, and understand the hearing process. Engaging with unrepresented respondents in their language of preference, via telephone, text, email, and in-person at OATH's offices, Procedural Justice Coordinators respond to requests for help sessions within one calendar day on average. This means that in 2025, OATH's Help Center staff assisted nearly 150,000 respondents. This is an increase of more than 50,000 when compared to the prior year. For eligible cases, the Help Center staff can also refer unrepresented respondents to independent legal services providers for possible representation at an OATH hearing at no cost to the respondent, and the Help Center did so in close to 250 cases last year. This type of personalized assistance helps OATH ensure that all New Yorkers have access to justice.

In addition, OATH's Help Center has specialized units to focus on assistance to small businesses, veterans, and older adults. Since 2021, the Help Center began conducting Help Sessions in OATH's Trials Division for unrepresented For-Hire Vehicle drivers facing license suspension or revocation, and vehicle owners seeking to recover their vehicles after NYPD seizure pursuant to an arrest. More than a dozen explanatory fact sheets on enforcement agency processes and OATH's hearing process are available at the Help Center and can be translated into the top ten languages.

Public Education & Outreach

Understanding that city government can sometimes be challenging to navigate, OATH has various vehicles for keeping respondents and practitioners updated on new developments. This includes the tribunal's website, our monthly BenchNOTES e-newsletter, and, as of last fall, the publication of OATH Trials Division case summaries in the New York Law Journal.

Committed to bringing greater access to justice to all New Yorkers, OATH continues to leave our offices, and visit our city's diverse neighborhoods, educating residents and small businesses about what we do, and how New Yorkers and New York City businesses can resolve their civil violations. In the first half of FY26, OATH conducted over 100 public-facing educational events in collaboration with elected officials, business associations, community groups, and more. These educational events include one of OATH's most successful initiative, *OATH-Resource*. This involves OATH staff working with Council Members and the Brooklyn, New York, and Queens Public Libraries to assist library visitors on matters related to their summonses and the hearing process. We are grateful for the collaboration with our libraries and elected officials, and look forward to working more with the Council to continue to find new ways to ensure New Yorkers have greater access to justice with OATH.

Whatever challenges await the city, OATH's amazing staff have dedicated themselves to meeting the moment and making sure that New Yorkers receive impartial hearings and timely decisions. OATH's staff is, very much, "New York's Fairest."

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today. I look forward to our continued collaboration with the City Council and welcome any questions that you may have.



COMMUNITY BOARD #14

CITY OF NEW YORK - BOROUGH OF QUEENS

1931 MOTT AVE., ROOM 311
FAR ROCKAWAY, NY 11691



718-471-7300
QN14@CB.NYC.GOV

March 16, 2026

FY27 Preliminary Budget Hearing – Government Operations, State & Federal Legislation Committee; held March 13, 2026

Statement to Chair CM Gale Brewer and Members of the Committee

Chair Brewer and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I want to draw your attention specifically to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget as it relates to the 59 community boards across New York City.

According to the FY27 proposal, community boards are budgeted at \$22,273,301, with a proposed cut of \$823,549. This reduction would apply across boards that are already operating with extremely limited resources.

My central question is simple: When was the last time community boards received a meaningful increase to their baseline budgets?

Because from where we stand, community boards have been asked—year after year—to do more, to respond to more, and to serve more residents, all without the benefit of increased funding. In fact, we are now being asked to absorb cuts.

Community boards are the city's most local, accessible, and community-rooted government bodies. We are the frontline for elected officials seeking to understand what is happening in their districts. We are the first point of contact for residents navigating city services, land use issues, quality-of-life concerns, and emergencies. The scope of our work has not decreased; if anything, it has expanded. Yet our budgets have not kept pace.

Most district managers and board members do this work because we love our communities. We take pride in serving our neighborhoods and ensuring that residents have a voice in city government. But dedication alone cannot compensate for chronic underfunding.

We are simply asking to be respected as the essential city agency that we are. Cutting our funding—especially when we have not received a baseline budget increase in years—undermines our ability to serve the public effectively.

I urge the administration and this committee to reconsider the proposed reduction and to restore, if not increase, funding for community boards in this budget cycle. Our communities deserve nothing less.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



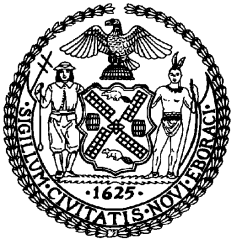
Felicia Johnson
District Manager

Community Board #14Q

FELICIA JOHNSON
DISTRICT MANAGER

 WWW.NYC.GOV/QUEENSCB14

DOLORES ORR
CHAIRPERSON



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3
59 East 4th Street - New York, NY 10003
Phone (212) 533-5300
www.cb3manhattan.org - mn03@cb.nyc.gov

Andrea Gordillo, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

Testimony for City Council Committee on Government Operations
Meeting held March 13, 2026

My name is Susan Stetzer and I am District Manager for Manhattan Community Board 3. I want to thank the Council for this opportunity to share budget concerns. Community Boards serve their communities—often beyond what time and budget reasonably allows. Community Boards encourage and facilitate community input into decision making for their communities. We are the best bang for the buck when we can partner with City agencies. We know the unique needs of our communities and working collaboratively makes us all much more effective.

Community Boards have not had a significant funding increase since 2014. My board has lost staff to other city agencies that offer better pay. We not only don't have pay parity with private companies, but we also don't have parity with other City agencies. This is currently demonstrated in the job postings for the new Mayor's Office of Mass Engagement. The salaries of lower-level staff are higher than many of our District Manager salaries.

Our technology needs have clearly increased as well as the need to have hybrid zoom / in-person meetings. This creates an ongoing technology expense as well as new expenses for AI, Airtable, and other new technology needs. Many boards hire a technician to set up and maintain zoom equipment and create zoom meetings since it is often difficult to find locations that have their own zoom equipment.

Term limits will begin next year; there will be additional reliance on board staff for institutional knowledge and expertise lost with long-time members. A stable staff will be essential—but current salaries are not comparable to even other City salaries, which creates excessive turnover.

All community boards have seen our work increase. Some, such as CB 3, has seen an increase because of cannabis and Open Streets applications as well as Dining Out. Each Dining Out business can have separate applications for sidewalk café, roadbed café, municipal expansion to each of these as well as Open Streets. Some agencies have entire new divisions for these programs. We don't have funding for even one additional part-time staff.

The need for more funding for community boards is very clear and obvious. We hope that the Government Operations Committee will understand this need. The City is in a difficult time financially but community boards working with agencies and elected officials make us all more effective in serving our communities.



CB11M

EAST HARLEM

Adem Brija
Chair

Angel D. Mescain
District Manager

**Testimony to the New York City Council
Committee on Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation
Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2027
March 13, 2026**

My name is Angel Mescain and the District Manager of Manhattan Community Board 11. I offer the following testimony on the need for resources and support for Community Boards across the City. I have had the pleasure of testifying before your committee in the past and again share my concern for the persistent underfunding of our agencies irrespective of the changing Mayoral administrations or City Councils. As you certainly know, Community Boards are the most localized agencies in the City, made up of 50 volunteer members and a small administrative staff. Community Boards have not seen a significant budget increase in over twenty years! Despite our annual requests for such an increase, we are always met with the response from the Office of Management & Budget that “each Community Board's budget is being maintained”. No explanation, no justification. No adjustment for inflation. No nothing.

With so many elected officials having passed through and cut their teeth at Community Boards in preparation for elected office, it is befuddling how twenty years could have passed with a budget increase. Surely, our former members understand the vital work done by our offices and the valuable resources we are to our communities. Yet, each year, there is no increase, not even a nominal one.

In the last few years, for some unknown reason, Community Boards have not been included among the agencies listed to be heard by the Committee in these budget hearings. I suggest that the committee correct this omission.

For many New Yorkers, community boards are the face of City government. We facilitate public participation in effective and meaningful ways and provide a forum for our communities to be heard on a variety of issues affecting them. But the fact remains that in order to achieve our charter mandated roles in land use review, the City's budget process, assessing our community needs, and providing services to our constituencies, our current level of funding is just not enough.

Every year, community boards across the City hold hundreds of public hearings and meetings to meet our mandates and allow community members to learn about and comment on applications for sidewalk cafes, liquor licenses, zoning and landmark changes, as well as a variety of other issues and proposals affecting their quality of life, traffic, transportation, parks, schools, public health, and human services. Our offices see an endless number of applications, constituent complaints, hearing notices and community planning exercises while also being responsible for providing our membership and constituency with all the information they require to meaningfully participate in these processes. All of this is done with what are often just three staff members including the District Manager.

It is with regard to these challenges that we ask the Council to consider an increase to the annual budget of Community Boards to support the vital role they play in planning and quality of life advocacy for their communities. Increasing the budget would allow boards to hire additional professional staff, invest in the necessary technology or to create customized technology to better perform our duties.

Thank you.



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

Testimony to the Committee on Government Operations – March 13, 2026

Good afternoon, Chair Brewer, Committee Members, Members of Council and those assembled today. My name is Shawn Campbell. I am the District Manager at Brooklyn Community Board 14. I am here to offer testimony on the need for a baseline budget increase for Community Boards. This is a request in CB14's District Needs Statement and Budget Priorities for FY 2027.

While this is the need I wish to amplify today, it is also important to note that it was submitted by CB14 along with an additional 20 capital and 27 expense budget requests. Not one of those requests received a meaningful response from a city agency. The responses are generally absurd. Community Boards engage in a long process and devote many hours to the CDNS to play our charter mandated part in bringing local community needs to the New York City budget conversation. That reflection of community needs deserves to be respected. It has been anything but by DCP, OMB and those at the agency level who select nonsense answers from a meaningless drop-down menu developed by DCP.

Community Boards are independent non-mayoral city agencies which have not had a significant budget increase in over 20 years. The average is a 1.5% annual increase over the last two decades during which inflation averages 2.5%. CBs are not keeping up.

Inarguably, we have far more responsibilities, more community demands, and greater technical needs than CBs did in 2002. Yet, we have fewer staff and relatively less funding with which to get it all done. Nearly all other city agencies have had significant staff and budget increases.

Brooklyn CB14 is struggling to continue events such as our annual youth conference which just took place this week. There were nearly 70 agencies, organizations and job providers who met with nearly 400 youth. Somehow, we will host our 14th annual nonprofit roundtable in May. I say somehow because we don't have the funds that we've drawn from in the past.

CB14 has one District Manager and two Community Coordinators. My last merit increase was in 2020. The last time staff received a merit increase was in 2023 and 2024 respectively. And believe me, they merit more! However, none of us will be able to ever get another merit increase again without a baseline increase (or the departure of a staff member to take advantage of a position with salary growth possibilities).

A baseline budget increase of \$50,000 or .02% of the city budget would be a worthy investment in local community service.

In addition to a baseline adjustment in keeping with our growing populations, growing responsibilities and the economy itself; CB budgets should be stabilized by tying them to a funding formula that considers full staffing minimums, or creating parity with another service agency, or a set percentage of a percentage of the citywide budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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

January 22, 2026

Hon. Rita Joseph
Member, NYC Council, 40th CD
930 Flatbush Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11226

Hon. Farah Louis
Member, NYC Council, 45th District
1434 Flatbush Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Hon. Inna Vernikov
Member, NYC Council, 48th CD
2401 Avenue U
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Hon. Simcha Felder
Member, NYC Council, 44th CD
4424 16th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11204

Dear Council Members,

Please support a long-overdue baseline budget adjustment for Community Boards in the FY27 budget. The need for a baseline increase could not be more urgent. For the past two decades, Community Board budgets grew on average by about 1.5% per year while inflation averaged a 2.5% annual increase. A baseline budget increase of a mere \$50,000 is necessary to adequately perform our Board work, hire and retain staff, and continue to serve as a crucial resource to our 59 Community Districts.

Currently, the baseline budget for each Community Board office is \$280,000. This covers all staff base salaries, office equipment and supplies, technology and security systems, consultants and livestream services, as well as phone, postage, printing and community events. With a budget increase of \$50,000 per board, the citywide baseline budget for community boards would represent only .02% of the New York City budget. This is a reasonable investment in local communities even as the city faces budget challenges.

In practical terms, Community Board funding has continuously decreased as responsibilities and demands have steadily increased. Newer responsibilities include conducting public hearings on Open Dining permits, Office of Cannabis Management applications, Open Streets applications and related SAPO activities. The last two administrations proposed six major zoning text amendments and charter revision commissions were established. These all necessitated several public hearings and drove an unprecedented number of calls, emails and visits to the office by engaged residents. Service delivery in general has increased. For instance, climate change brings more requests for assistance with flooding and downed trees. This has also placed the responsibility on Community Boards to advocate for longer term solutions such as flood mitigation, green infrastructure and tree care.

By law, the district office is also responsible for language access and for website low vision access. District Managers were appointed Agency Privacy Officers, tasked with highly technical quarterly reports. We have had to develop and pay for our own database to track service delivery. Upgrading technology to livestream, providing remote/hybrid access to meetings and recording and storing recordings on our websites also came out of our 20-year basically fixed budget.

Severe budget constraints force us to use less-than-optimal video and livestreaming because it's what we can afford. CB14 holds video conference meetings via Webex. Webex is flawed, but it is free. In 2020, when City Council provided Community Boards with a one-shot deal of \$42,500, most of these funds were invested in equipment enabling CB14 to live-stream smaller meetings from our district office. The quality is not optimal, but we cannot upgrade equipment with our current budget. In fact, we no longer have enough funding to make repairs or replace equipment. When this system fails, we will not be able to meet the legal mandate to live stream. What then? For off-site meetings we record and livestream using a provider. These services are vital, but their annual costs are already nearly \$5,000 and we expect them to rise. Livestreaming has tripled our internet costs, which we have had to absorb that with no funding increase.

All staff baseline salaries for full-time employees, hourly pay for part-time staff and any merit increases are paid from the community board budget. Collective bargaining and cost of living adjustments for unionized staff are augmented by the city. Mayors' Personnel Orders (MPOs) have been granted twice in the last 15 years. They raised District Manager pay and were augmented by the city (not withdrawn from the CB baseline budget). At this point, CB14 will not be able to offer a merit raise to staff or hire additional staff without a baseline increase unless and until a current staff member leaves the payroll and the staffing is readjusted. In many cases when District Managers have left their positions, the Community Board budget could not cover acquired leave time and boards could not hire a replacement for months. In one case, Borough Hall allocated funding to a board that would otherwise not have had staff for a year. This was a discretionary allocation and is not a practice that applies across all boards.

CB14 provides service delivery to 165,000 residents with one district manager, one full-time and one part-time community coordinator. We serve a very demanding district. While we do so gladly, we are up against the limits of our annual budget despite receiving allocations from two supportive Council Members. We are now dependent on these allocations. These funds do not augment our work, rather they have become necessary to maintain our baseline service delivery and community events. These council member discretionary funds are intended to be allocated to local community-based organizations rather than funding another city agency. Since they are at the discretion of City Council Members, they are not allocated evenly across all 59 boards. Some community districts overlap with five Council Members; some overlap only with two. A baseline budget increase would help address these inequities.

At CB14, community events are a valuable component of our programming, but they are costly and likely to face cuts without budget increases. Brooklyn CB14 organizes an annual youth resource fair, an annual nonprofit roundtable and an annual reception at which we recognize new members and colleagues who have served with distinction. We have also organized lunch and learn series and board member outings in the district. These events carry costs such as space fees, table rentals, printing and mailings.

Community Boards make the most of our small budgets, but we are at our limit. If the pattern of increasing costs without commensurate budget increases continues, our offices will be forced to make cuts to our services. Already, the district office must limit the number of mailings we send so that we do not exceed the cap on the free version of the mailing service. Our emailing service and our USPS postage are also near their limits. We were unable to provide refreshments at the last nonprofit roundtable. We are reconsidering the annual reception due to its costs.

Community Boards are independent non-mayoral city agencies. We are not units, departments or functions of any other agency or any office of an elected official. While tasked with serving as advisory bodies on proposals, permits, events and applications, the overriding responsibility of a Community Board is service delivery to the residents, businesses and organizations that fall within our district borders. Given Mayor Mamdani's establishment of the Office of Mass Engagement, and the role of the Community Boards noted

January 22, 2026

within that office, we strongly believe that the time has come to ensure that our resources are matched to our responsibilities and public expectations.

Fortunately, Council Members recognize the value of local community service and local community input on citywide plans and policies. The functions of Community Boards must be supported with an adequate budget pegged to inflation and to the growth of all other city agencies and elected offices. We recognize that the city budget will face many pressures but know that Community Boards are one of the best returns on investment. With only approximately 150 community board staff citywide, we serve 8.4 million residents, as well as local businesses and community organizations. Please support an agency-wide adjustment of \$50K per community board to redress a 20-year funding gap. It is a small request in the budget sense but meaningful to the staff and members of Community Boards and the people of the districts they serve.

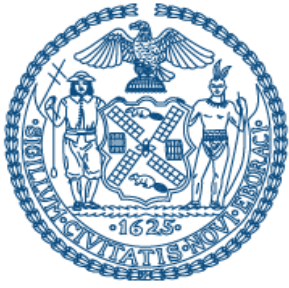
Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Shawn Campbell
District Manager

cc: Hon. Julie Menin, Speaker, New York City Council
Hon. Gale Brewer, Chair, Governmental Operations, State and Federal Legislation Committee
Hon. Linda Lee, Chair, Finance Committee
Hon. Shahana Hanif, Member, NYC Council, 39th CD



REGISTER OF COMMUNITY BOARD BUDGET REQUESTS

For the Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2027

Brooklyn



The City of New York
Zohran Mamdani, Mayor

FY 2027 Preliminary Budget Register of Community Board Budget Priorities

The Register of Community Board Budget Requests for the Preliminary Budget reports the FY Preliminary budget status of each of the projects and programs requested by the City's 59 community boards.

The FY 2027 Register is the charter mandated product of a dynamic and cyclical budget process for the 59 community boards. The community boards consult with agencies on the capital and expense needs of the district. After consulting, each community board develops and votes separate priorities for up to 40 capital and 25 expense budget requests which the agencies review and respond to in the **Register of Community Board Requests for the Preliminary Budget** in January.

The Mayor's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reviews these same budget requests and updates the responses for the Executive Budget, publishing them in the **Register of Community Board Requests for the Executive Budget** in April.

In May, the City Council holds public hearings on the Executive Budget. At these hearings, community boards, community groups and interested citizens may comment on the budget decisions contained in the Register.

In June, OMB publishes the **Register of Community Board Budget Requests for the Adopted Budget** which informs the boards of the final disposition of their original budget priorities. The Adopted Register contains responses that reflect the changes made to the Executive Budget by the City Council.

Capital project requests from community boards are site specific, and primarily for infrastructure or public facility improvements.

For more specific information about programs important to the community boards, refer to each agency's section in the Message of the Mayor for the Adopted Capital and Expense Budgets.

Call 212-788-6129 for more information about the community board process including consultations, and the geographic versions of budget documents.

FORMAT OF THE REGISTER

The Register of Community Board Budget Requests is sorted into four versions: Community Board, Borough, Council and Agency. In all versions of the Register, each board's expense requests directly follow their capital requests. The requests are in board order.

LAYOUT OF BUDGET REQUESTS PAGES

Column 1: Priority Number

The priority assigned by a community board reflects the importance of that request as compared to its other requests. Boards may assign Continued Support (CS) to a project which received funding for construction in any year of the current Financial Plan.

Column 2: Tracking Code

The nine-digit identification number assigned to each community board budget request. Tracking codes are unique to each request and identify the borough, community district, year submitted, and request. The first digit refers to the borough, 1 = the Bronx, 2 = Brooklyn, 3 = Manhattan, 4 = Queens, and 5 = Staten Island; the second and third digits indicate the district number. The fourth through seventh digits represent the fiscal year for which the request was submitted, and the last two digits are the request number. The tenth character indicates whether it is a capital ("C") or expense ("E") budget request.

Column 3: Project Information

Request: A brief description of the project.

Explanation: Supporting information detailing the project, and its potential benefits.

Responsible Agency: The City agency which would implement the project.

Budget Line Number: The number assigned to a capital project that was previously funded or is included in any year of the current Financial Plan.

PROJECT ID: The Capital Project Information System identification number which allows projects to be entered into the City's computer tracking system. The number of the managing agency and the project identification number make up the PROJECT ID of the project.

Source of Request: Any group(s) which support the request.

Column 4: Response

The Preliminary Budget recommendation for each budget request.

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Capital Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
Brooklyn Public Library			
01	216202701C	<p>Request: Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library</p> <p>Explanation: Repointing and rehabilitation of the limestone are needed to prevent further deterioration of exterior of the Stone Avenue Library Branch which is also in need of a new roof and side entry steps. In addition, new windows and doors are also needed.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Brooklyn Public Library</p> <p>Location Site Name: Stone Ave Branch Library</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: Brooklyn Public Library supports this request and has identified these capital improvements as an unfunded need.</p>
01	216202701CS	<p>Request: Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library</p> <p>Explanation: Renovation of the interior of the Saratoga Library Branch is needed to include the heating and cooling system and safety and security enhancements.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Brooklyn Public Library</p> <p>Location Site Name: Saratoga Library Branch</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: Brooklyn Public Library supports this request and has identified these capital improvements as an unfunded need.</p>
Department of Cultural Affairs			
01	216202702C	<p>Request: Other capital request for DCLA</p> <p>Explanation: CREATE A MURAL ON LIVONIA BETWEEN CHESTER & ROCAWAY AVE</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Cultural Affairs</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16 Victory Music & Dance</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: More information is required by DCLA to consider this request, specifically each request must be tied to one specific eligible cultural organization and mention a specific project. Please contact the DCLA public art unit for this request.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Capital Budget Priorities and Requests

Tracking Priority Code	Project Information	Agency Response
Department of Education		
01 216202716CS	<p>Request: Renovate interior building component</p> <p>Explanation: Renovate all bathrooms in schools in District #23 to provide a safe and healthy environment for students and staff.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: FUNDING NOT AVAILABLE.</p>
01 216202728C	<p>Request: Renovate or upgrade a middle or intermediate school</p> <p>Explanation: Upgrade student bathrooms, library and auditorium (curtains, sound system and air condition) and gymnasium to provide a safe and healthy environment for students and staff at Kappa V.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p> <p>Location Site Name: Kappa V</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: FUNDING NOT AVAILABLE.</p>
02 216202729C	<p>Request: Renovate or upgrade an elementary school</p> <p>Explanation: The auditorium at P.S. 41 is dimly lit. Upgrading of the lighting will provide more illumination during performances and meetings.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: RESO A AUDITORIUM UPGRADE IN SCOPE.</p>
03 216202730C	<p>Request: Renovate or upgrade an elementary school</p> <p>Explanation: Renovate cafeteria at P.S. 599. A complete renovation of the cafeteria is needed to provide better accommodations for the student body.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: FUNDING NOT AVAILABLE.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Capital Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
04	216202731C	<p>Request: Renovate or upgrade an elementary school</p> <p>Explanation: The cafeteria and auditorium at P.S. 137 are in need of renovation to improve lighting and seating for the student body.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: FUNDING NOT AVAILABLE.</p>
05	216202732C	<p>Request: Renovate interior building component</p> <p>Explanation: Renovate all school buildings in District #23 to make them ADA compliant.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p> <p>Supported by: CEC of District #23</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: NYCPS is working on full accessibility upgrades to buildings K137 and K150</p>
06	216202733C	<p>Request: Renovate interior building component</p> <p>Explanation: K284 (The Gregory "Jocko" Jackson School of Sports, Arts, and Technology) has a swimming pool that is in substandard condition and cannot be used by students who want to learn how to swim. Restoring the pool can also provide after school programming for other community residents who desire to learn how to swim.,</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: FUNDING NOT AVAILABLE.</p>
07	216202734C	<p>Request: Renovate interior building component</p> <p>Explanation: The cafeteria at P.S. 446 is also used as an auditorium and gymnasium. Padding is needed on the walls to prevent injury during gym.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: FUNDING NOT AVAILABLE.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Capital Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
08	216202735C	<p>Request: Renovate or upgrade an elementary school</p> <p>Explanation: P.S. 178 is a very old structure and the entire building is in need of painting. All water fountains need to be replaced. The draining system in the kitchen needs repairing to enable water to drain properly. All radiators need protective covering to prevent students from getting burned when touching.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: DSF installed bottle fillers on all floors, not the first floor. Our skilled trades will expedite repair of drain in kitchen. All radiators where missing will be installed by DSF. SCA is currently performing an exterior mod & flood project. Scope of project includes painting of affected areas.</p>
09	216202736C	<p>Request: Renovate other site component</p> <p>Explanation: Reconstruct the roof over the auditorium of P.S. 327 to prevent further damage when it rains.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p>	<p>This request has already been completed.</p> <p>Explanation: ROOF PROJECT IN PROCESS.</p>
10	216202737C	<p>Request: Renovate or upgrade an elementary school</p> <p>Explanation: Renovate Cafeteria and Auditorium at P.S. 155. A complete renovation is needed for the cafeteria and auditorium to provide better lighting and seating for the student body.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: FUNDING NOT AVAILABLE.</p>
11	216202738C	<p>Request: Renovate interior building component</p> <p>Explanation: Install new PA System at Dr. Betty Shabazz School P.S. 298.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p> <p>Location Site Name: Dr. Betty Shabazz School P.S. 298 Address: 85 WATKINS STREET, Brooklyn, NY, USA</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: FUNDING NOT AVAILABLE.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Capital Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene			
01	216202702CS	<p>Request: Other capital request for DOHMH</p> <p>Explanation: RODENT BAITING AND CONTROL THROUGHOUT LOTS, TRAIN STATIONS, AREAS EXPERIENCING NO CLEANING AND HEAVY DUMPING.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</p>	<p>This request has already been completed.</p> <p>Explanation: DOHMH is happy to discuss ways to partner on reducing rodent populations, including hosting Rat Academies for property owners and proper garbage disposal</p>
Department of Parks and Recreation			
01	216202703C	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: Reconstruction of Floyd Paterson Field with synthetic turf for multi purpose use such as baseball, football, soccer, and cricket will improve the condition of the field and make it more conducive for recreational activities for all ages. We also request that lights be installed for night activities.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Location Site Name: Floyd Paterson Field</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We support the request for improvements to Floyd Patterson Ballfields but do not have capital funding available.</p>
01	216202703CS	<p>Request: Other requests for park, building, or access improvements</p> <p>Explanation: Funding was allocated to fix the BRC since 2023.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Location Site Name: BROWNSVILLE RECREATION CENTER, Brooklyn, NY, USA</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We have \$160 million of funding in place for demolition of the old structure and construction of a brand new Brownsville Recreation Center. The project will be managed by the NYC Department of Design and Construction and we will be hosting a public program review meeting in the near future.</p>

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Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
02	216202704C	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: Renovate restroom at Ocean Hill Playground.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Location Site Name: OCEAN HILL PLAYGROUND, Brooklyn, NY, USA</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We support the request to repair and improve the public restroom at Ocean Hill Playground but do not have capital funding available.</p>
02	216202704CS	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: Rehabilitate Betsy Head Pool and Bath House. Due to many years of use, the swimming pool is in need of renovation as well as the bath house.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16</p> <p>Location Site Name: BETSY HEAD POOL, Brooklyn, NY, USA</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We support the request for repairs and improvements to Betsy Head Pool and Bath House but do not have capital funding available.</p>
03	216202705C	<p>Request: Provide a new, or new expansion to, a building in a park</p> <p>Explanation: Nehemiah Park and Floyd Paterson Field are located diagonally from each other. Construction of a comfort station at Nehemiah Park will service both Nehemiah Park and Floyd Paterson Field which are heavily used by residents of neighboring housing developments.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Location Site Name: Nehemiah Park</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We support the request for a new public restroom at Nehemiah Park (we no longer refer to them as "comfort stations") but do not have capital funding available.</p>

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Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
03	216202705CS	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: Renovate playground and restroom at Osborn Playground.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Location Site Name: OSBORN PLAYGROUND, Brooklyn, NY, USA</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We have \$1.5 million of funding in place for improvements to the public restroom at Osborn Playground and expect construction to start in 2027. We have \$772,000 in place for installation of new of adult fitness equipment at Osborn Playground and expect construction to be completed in fall 2026. For more information, please visit: https://www.nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/capital-project-tracker/project/10391</p> <p>We support the request for improvements to other sections of the playground but do not have capital funding available.</p>
04	216202706C	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: The basketball court and sitting area of Marion Hopkinson Playground is caving in and in need of reconstruction.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We support the request for improvements to Marion Hopkinson Playground but do not have capital funding available.</p>
04	216202706CS	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: Renovate playground and restroom at Ocean Hill Playground.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Location Site Name: OCEAN HILL PLAYGROUND, Brooklyn, NY, USA</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We support the request to repair and improve the public restroom at Ocean Hill Playground but do not have capital funding available.</p>

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Capital Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
05	216202707C	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: Van Dyke Playground is used by hundreds of residents who live in Van Dyke Houses, a NYCHA development. The play equipment is in need of rehabilitation and a bathroom is requested.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We support the request for improvements to the play equipment and construction of a new public restroom at Van Dyke Playground but do not have capital funding available.</p>
05	216202707CS	<p>Request: Other capital budget request for DPR</p> <p>Explanation: Repair waterlines at Chester Playground to make restroom functional and re-open restrooms that have been inoperable for 3 years.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We have \$8 million of funding in place for improvements at Chester Playground and are doing our best to include repairs to the public restroom as part of the existing capital contract. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2026.</p>
06	216202708C	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: Dr. Richard Green Playground is adjacent to a public school and several NYCHA buildings which is the only source of recreation for hundreds of children. The play equipment needs upgrading as well as the comfort station.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Location Site Name: Dr Richard Green Playground</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We support the request for improvements to the playground and public restroom at Dr. Green Playground (we no longer refer to them as "comfort stations") but do not have capital funding available.</p>

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Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
06	216202708CS	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: Renovate restrooms at Chester Playground. As of Nov. 2025, the capital project is 5% completed since 2022. Bathrooms continue to remain inoperable.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16</p> <p>Location Site Name: CHESTER PLAYGROUND, Brooklyn, NY, USA</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We have \$8 million of funding in place for improvements at Chester Playground and are doing our best to include repairs to the public restroom as part of the existing capital contract. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2026.</p>
07	216202709C	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: Rehabilitation of the play equipment and comfort station at South Pacific Playground, which is adjacent to Kingsboro Houses, will continue to provide much needed recreation for community residents.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We support the request for improvements to the play equipment and public restroom at South Pacific Playground (we no longer refer to them as "comfort stations") but do not have capital funding available.</p>
08	216202710C	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: Livonia Park is adjacent to a senior citizen complex. New benches, checkers and chess tables and exercise equipment are needed.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Location Site Name: Livonia Park</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We have \$5 million of funding in place for improvements to Livonia Park and will be presenting the design for the site to the Community Board on January 8, 2026. We expect construction to begin in fall 2027. For more information, please visit: https://www.nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/capital-project-tracker/project/10677</p>

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Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
09	216202711C	<p>Request: Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</p> <p>Explanation: New and updated play equipment is needed at Fish Playground to provide recreation for children in the adjacent school as well as the community.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Location Site Name: Fish Playground</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We support the request for improvements to Fish Playground but do not have capital funding available.</p>
Department of Sanitation			
01	216202709CS	<p>Request: Increase number of surveillance cameras for illegal dumping</p> <p>Explanation: Junius Street, East New York Avenue, Broadway, New Lots Ave are always being dumped on.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Sanitation</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16 Nehemiah Homeowners Association</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: The agency supports this request, but funding is not available at this time.</p>
Department of Transportation			
01	216202710CS	<p>Request: Reconstruct streets</p> <p>Explanation: DOT began resurfacing in 2024 along the eastern section of the district and has not continued street repairs since that time.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Transportation</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16</p>	<p>The agency does not understand the request as written and requires more clarification.</p> <p>Explanation: Please provide specific locations for us to investigate.</p>

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Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
01	216202712C	<p>Request: Repair or provide new street lights</p> <p>Explanation: Install lighting on Rockaway Avenue between Pitkin Avenue & Eastern Parkway to increase safety and prevent falls. The locations are dark and create unsafe conditions for pedestrians.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Transportation</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16</p>	<p>Agency does not support but can address the need alternatively</p> <p>Explanation: Going forward, please enter requests for lighting via 311 here: https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-02491</p> <p>We have entered the request and will respond once we know more.</p>
02	216202711CS	<p>Request: Reconstruct streets</p> <p>Explanation: Resurface East New York Avenue between Mother Gaston Blvd and Junius Street. Years of continued construction has left East New York Avenue in disrepair.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Transportation</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: This is part of a DDC capital project.</p>
03	216202712CS	<p>Request: Repair or provide new street lights</p> <p>Explanation: The IRT 3-line runs along Livonia Avenue between Junius Street and East 98th Street. Additional lights are needed along Livonia Avenue to brighten the street and make it less conducive to criminal activities.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Transportation</p>	<p>Agency does not support but can address the need alternatively</p> <p>Explanation: This is not a budget request. This site was inspected recently and no additional lighting was determined to be needed but some minor repairs were made.</p>
04	216202713CS	<p>Request: Reconstruct streets</p> <p>Explanation: Broadway between Saratoga Avenue and Van Sinderen Avenue is a very busy commercial thoroughfare. It's been more than 40 years since this segment of Broadway has been reconstructed to remove hazardous roadway conditions. Agency needs to indicate a timeline and confirm funding.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Transportation</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: The agency supports this request but funding cannot be determined at this time. DOT has an unfunded capital project to reconstruct Broadway, remove the concrete roadway, and install pedestrian safety improvements.</p>

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Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
05	216202714CS	<p>Request: Upgrade or create new plazas</p> <p>Explanation: Renovate Veterans Triangle including upgrading light fixtures to improve safety. The triangle is used by area residents and MTA bus riders due to adjacent bus stop.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Transportation</p> <p>Supported by: 73rd Precinct</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: We inspected the lighting here and determined it is sufficient. Please reach out to the Parks Department for other changes/management of the public space here.</p>
Housing Authority			
01	216202713C	<p>Request: Other capital budget request for NYCHA</p> <p>Explanation: Replace all sewer lines at Howard Houses. Because of its aging infrastructure, there is an increasingly need to replace sewer lines at Howard Houses to prevent further leaks and breaks in the system. The playground is also in need of a full renovation for residents of the complex. The basketball court at Langston Huges Houses and Tilden Houses is also in need of a full renovation for residents of the complexes to include hoops, floors and benches.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Housing Authority</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: NYCHA understands the dire needs for the development. We will need additional funding from our partners in local government to address the needs of concern.</p>
02	216202714C	<p>Request: Install security cameras or make other safety upgrades</p> <p>Explanation: Install security cameras, new entry doors and intercoms at Marcus Garvey Houses to help deter crime and enhance the quality of life for its residents.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Housing Authority</p> <p>Supported by: Marcus Garvey Resident Association</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: NYCHA will need additional funding to install cameras. We can conduct an assessment to see which areas need cameras and provide a cost estimate</p>

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Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
Mayor's Office of Management and Budget			
01	216202715CS	<p>Request: Other capital request for OMB</p> <p>Explanation: CB16 office cannot properly service one of the most impoverished districts in New York and the country if competitive salaries cannot be offered to recruit and maintain a competent and strong workforce to support our constituents</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Mayor's Office of Management and Budget</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16</p> <p>LocationAddress: 444 THOMAS S BOYLAND STREET, Brooklyn, NY, USA</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: As of the FY 2027 Preliminary Budget, each Community Board's budget is being maintained.</p>
Transit Authority			
01	216202715C	<p>Request: Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</p> <p>Explanation: The Rockaway Avenue station on the IND line is subterranean and is not ADA compliant. An elevator or escalator is needed to enable persons who cannot walk down the series of steps to access the subway system.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
02	216202716C	<p>Request: Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</p> <p>Explanation: The Sutter-Rutland Road station on the IRT line is an elevated structure and is not handicap accessible. An elevator or escalator is needed to enable persons who cannot walk up the stairway to use the station.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p> <p>Location Site Name: Sutter-Rutland Road station</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>

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Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
03	216202717C	<p>Request: Other capital request for NYCTA</p> <p>Explanation: Replace IRT 3-line with new trains that are proposed. This line has not been upgraded in several years.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
04	216202718C	<p>Request: Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure</p> <p>Explanation: Install security cameras and upgrade lighting in the tunnel of the East New York station on the LIRR to improve security for riders. Paint or install other durable material; i.e., weatherproof tiles.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
05	216202719C	<p>Request: Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure</p> <p>Explanation: Rehabilitate pedestrian bridge connecting the IRT-3 at Junius Street and the L-line at Livonia Avenue to provide safe passage and connection to subway stations. Upgrade lights on the bridge to better illuminate the walkway.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
06	216202720C	<p>Request: Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</p> <p>Explanation: The Rockaway Avenue station on the IRT line is an elevated structure and is not handicap accessible. An elevator or escalator is needed to enable persons who cannot walk up the stairway to use the station.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p> <p>Location Site Name: Rockaway Ave station</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>

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Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
07	216202721C	<p>Request: Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</p> <p>Explanation: The Chauncey Street station on the "J" line is an elevated structure and is not handicap accessible. An elevator or escalator is needed to enable persons who cannot walk up the stairway to use the station</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
08	216202722C	<p>Request: Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</p> <p>Explanation: The New Lots Avenue station on the "L" line is an elevated structure and is not handicap accessible. An elevator or escalator is needed to enable persons who cannot walk up the stairway to use the station</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p> <p>Location Site Name: New Lots Ave station</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
09	216202723C	<p>Request: Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</p> <p>Explanation: The Saratoga Avenue station serves patients who seeking medical care at Brookdale Hospital on the IRT 3-line which is an elevated structure and is not handicap accessible. An elevator or escalator is needed to enable persons who cannot walk up the stairway to use the station.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p> <p>Location Site Name: Saratoga Ave station</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>

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Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
10	216202724C	<p>Request: Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</p> <p>Explanation: The Sutter Avenue station on the "L" line is an elevated structure and is not handicap accessble. An elevator or escalator is needed to enable persons who cannot walk up the stairway to use the station.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p> <p>Location Site Name: Sutter Ave Station</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
11	216202725C	<p>Request: Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</p> <p>Explanation: The Atlantic Avenue station on the "L" line is an elevated structure and is not handicap accessible. An elevator or escalator is needed to enable persons who cannot walkup the stairway to use the station.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p> <p>Location Site Name: Atlantic Ave station</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
12	216202726C	<p>Request: Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure</p> <p>Explanation: New Lots Avenue station on the L-line is dimly lit. Upgrade lights at the station to provide more illumination for commuters.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>

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Capital Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
13	216202727C	<p>Request: Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</p> <p>Explanation: The Junius Street station on the IRT line is an elevated structure and is not handicap accessible. An elevator or escalator is needed to enable persons who cannot walk up the stairway to use the station. We're also requesting the construction of a passageway between the "Junius Street" station on the IRT-3 and the "Livonia Avenue" station on the IND-L to enable commuters to transfer between stations without descending to the street to re-enter the transit system.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p> <p>Location Site Name: Junius St station</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>

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Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
Department for the Aging			
01	216202702E	<p>Request: Increase transportation services capacity</p> <p>Explanation: Many of our elderly and homebound residents live alone. Without this service, they would not be able to get to their medical appointments and shop for groceries.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department for the Aging</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: NYC Aging will need additional funding for this.</p>
02	216202703E	<p>Request: Enhance home care services</p> <p>Explanation: Many of our seniors live alone and are in need of assistance to perform activities of daily living in their home such as bathing, feeding, and or housekeeping.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department for the Aging</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: NYC Aging will need additional funding for this.</p>
03	216202704E	<p>Request: Increase home delivered meals capacity</p> <p>Explanation: Many of our low-income elderly residents who live alone do not have sufficient income to shop for groceries and prepare daily nutritional meals. An expansion of the Meals-on-Wheels program will enable this population to eat more healthy and frequently.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department for the Aging</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: NYC Aging reviews HDM expenses every quarter and adjust budget accordingly.</p>
Department of Education			
01	216202701E	<p>Request: Other expense budget request for ACS</p> <p>Explanation: Expand early care and education programs provided by day care and headstart centers.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>

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Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
01	216202705E	<p>Request: Other educational programs requests</p> <p>Explanation: For various reasons, not every student is prepared to attend college. Therefore, they should have the option to learn a skilled trade while in high school that will equip them to compete in the job market. Career and Technical Education Programs will prepare our high school students for entry level employment in a specific occupation and is aligned with business/industry standards.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Education</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
Department of Environmental Protection			
01	216202706E	<p>Request: Clean catch basins</p> <p>Explanation: When litter and debris clog our catch basins, flooding and ponding occur during heavy rainfall at heavily trafficked locations which makes it difficult and unsafe for pedestrian crossing. Periodic cleaning of our catch basins is required.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Environmental Protection</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
02	216202707E	<p>Request: Inspect storm sewer on specific street segment and service, repair or replace as needed</p> <p>Explanation: Many rain gardens are overgrown and not maintained. DEP needs to collect and disclose when they are cleaned. Additional manpower is needed to clean the rain gardens more frequently.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Environmental Protection</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>

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Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene			
01	216202708E	<p>Request: Other programs to address public health issues requests</p> <p>Explanation: According to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the rate of preterm births in Community District #16, a key driver of infant death, is the second highest in the city. Maternal and infant health services are needed to promote healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes, and healthy infant growth and development. The long-term goal of maternal and infant health programs is to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</p>	<p>This request has already been completed.</p> <p>Explanation: DOHMH agrees maternal mortality among communities of color continues to be a public health concern and we are looking into ways of expanding services and education</p>
02	216202709E	<p>Request: Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment</p> <p>Explanation: Gun violence is very prevalent in our community. When gun violence ends a life, it also impacts the lives of survivors (families and friends) who struggle to cope with the lose of a loved one. In addition, COVID-19 has impacted the mental health of our residents. Preventive and treatment programs are needed for all ages.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</p>	<p>This request has already been completed.</p> <p>Explanation: DOHMH looks forward to discussing further ways we can partner with communities to address public health concerns including providing resources and materials for dissemination</p>
03	216202710E	<p>Request: Create or promote programs for education and awareness on preventing chronic diseases including quitting smoking, nutrition, physical activity, etc.</p> <p>Explanation: Expand services and programming to address Dementia and Alzheimer's.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16</p>	<p>This request has already been completed.</p> <p>Explanation: DOHMH would like to discuss further and also suggest mental health first aide training and 988 resources</p>

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
04	216202711E	<p>Request: Create or promote programs for education and awareness on preventing chronic diseases including quitting smoking, nutrition, physical activity, etc.</p> <p>Explanation: Cancer is one of the top 10 diseases that impact our community. We need education and resources for breast cancer, prostate cancer, throat cancer, stomach cancer, and colon cancer.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</p>	<p>This request has already been completed.</p> <p>Explanation: DOHMH agrees that cancer is one of the leading causes of shorter life expectancy rates in NYC, it is one of the drivers DOHMH is looking at with our HealthNYC initiative. We invite the public to take advantage of Health and Hospitals clinical services for cancer screenings and the NY State Department of Health's website for more comprehensive information on cancer including a database of cancer rates by type in geographic break downs.</p>
05	216202712E	<p>Request: Other expense request for DOHMH</p> <p>Explanation: Increase services for expecting and new mothers for breast feeding services, to educate and encourage breastfeeding.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</p>	<p>This request has already been completed.</p> <p>Explanation: DOHMH agrees maternal mortality among communities of color continues to be a public health concern and we are looking into ways of expanding services and education</p>
Department of Housing Preservation & Development			
01	216202720E	<p>Request: Other expense budget request for HPD</p> <p>Explanation: Provide more housing for extremely low and low income households. The supply of decent affordable housing for extremely low and low income households is decreasing. As a result, many reside in substandard housing that impacts their health. Others are forced into homeless shelters.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Housing Preservation & Development</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: HPD finances and supports different types of projects. Many projects are 100% affordable, and a portion of those units are ELI/VLI. Some projects contain a majority of ELI/VLI units. While HPD is breaking affordable housing production records, there is more work to be done. HPD will continue to maximize the use of subsidy and Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to projects in our development pipeline throughout the Five Boroughs, including those serving Very Low Income (VLI) and Extremely Low Income (ELI) populations.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
02	216202721E	<p>Request: Other expense budget request for HPD</p> <p>Explanation: HPD - Provide more housing for medium income households. Maintaining permanent housing is becoming more difficult for low wage working individuals and families. Medium income housing will enable them to become less rent burden and remain in the community</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Housing Preservation & Development</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: Thank you for this request. We agree that your district need additional affordable housing. HPD will continue to use all tools available, including but not limited to subsidy, tax exemptions, and Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to fund the construction of affordable housing from the development pipeline to maximize available resources.</p>
03	216202722E	<p>Request: Other expense budget request for HPD</p> <p>Explanation: HPD - Expand loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling building. Many of our multi family housing stock are in need of roof replacement, heating and electrical upgrades. Financing programs such as the Participation Loan Program and Multifamily Housing Rehabilitation Program are needed to facilitate the physical and financial sustainability and affordability of privately-owned multifamily buildings.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Housing Preservation & Development</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: HPD is constantly adding new rehabilitation and preservation projects to its development pipeline. Please do not hesitate to identify buildings that would benefit from such efforts.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
Department of Parks and Recreation			
01	216202713E	<p>Request: Forestry services, including street tree maintenance</p> <p>Explanation: Street trees throughout the district are in need of pruning. Tree limbs are covering streetlights and creating a condition conducive to criminal activities.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: Parks' block pruning program provides neighborhood-based, proactive tree maintenance by addressing a portion of the street trees in each CB every year. Parks inspects, then prunes all city-owned street trees above 4" in diameter on a routine 7-year cycle, which is an industry standard. The goals of block pruning are to reduce damage caused during storms, avoid blocking traffic signals, remove dead branches, improve tree health and structure, and encourage growth away from built infrastructure.</p> <p>If there are individual trees in need of pruning for public safety in between this cycle, we encourage anyone to submit a service request by locating the tree on the NYC Tree Map (and clicking on the "report a problem" tab), calling 311, or using our online tree service request system. Our inspectors will visit the tree and determine the appropriate action in accordance with our Tree Risk Management Program.</p>
Department of Sanitation			
01	216202714E	<p>Request: Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers</p> <p>Explanation: Restore trash cans to Marion Street & Rockway Avenue and Livonia Avenue and Chester Street. Additionally, ensure that cans are present in high traffic areas that contribute to road debris.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Sanitation</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: DSNY will look into replacing any missing cans that were already in place. Funding for additional litter baskets above what was in place is currently not available.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
Department of Small Business Services			
01	216202715E	<p>Request: Other workforce development requests</p> <p>Explanation: A comprehensive one stop small business center to include M/WBE programs and technical assistance to support local businesses and entrepreneurs is needed.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Small Business Services</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: Although SBS does not have additional funding for a new Business Solutions Center or its equivalent at this time, the agency can meet community needs through existing resources. SBS can do targeted outreach to promote small business resources in partnership with CB 16. We can also deploy our Mobile Outreach Unit. We encourage community boards interested in increased promotion of our services locally to contact us at intergov@sbs.nyc.gov.</p>
02	216202716E	<p>Request: Support development of local Storefront / Facade Improvement Program</p> <p>Explanation: There are a number of vacant storefronts along the Belmont Avenue commercial corridors where property owners need financial support to renovate.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Small Business Services</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: SBS provides support for small businesses in need of financing assistance. Interested business-owners and community-based organizations should call the SBS Hotline for more information and to receive a referral to services at (888) SBS-4NYC. Interested business owners can also visit the "NYC Funds Finder" site, a platform for business owners seeking capital which they can visit at nycfundsfinder.nextstreet.com.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
03	216202717E	<p>Request: Support development of local Storefront / Facade Improvement Program</p> <p>Explanation: There are a number of stores along the Pitkin Avenue commercial corridor that need facade improvement and property owners are in need of financial assistance.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Small Business Services</p> <p>Supported by: Pitkin Avenue Management Association.</p>	<p>Agency supports and can accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: SBS has resources to help guide business-owners pursuing storefront and facade improvements. Resources include best practices in storefront design such as Storefront Improvements: A Guide for Neighborhood Commercial Districts and Top 10 Storefront Design Tips.</p> <p>SBS also provides support for small businesses in need of financing assistance. Interested business owners can also visit the "NYC Funds Finder" site, a platform for business owners seeking capital which they can visit at nycfundsfinder.nextstreet.com.</p> <p>https://nycfundsfinder.com/</p>
Department of Transportation			
01	216202718E	<p>Request: Other traffic improvement requests</p> <p>Explanation: Bike lane striping are fading, and safety-related installations such as vertical stakes are damaged or missing. Repairs are needed to ensure the function of bike lanes and safety of users.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Transportation</p>	<p>The agency does not understand the request as written and requires more clarification.</p> <p>Explanation: Roadway markings and vertical element refurbishments are triggered by roadway resurfacing or specific requests. Please provide specific locations and we can investigate further.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
Department of Youth & Community Development			
01	216202719E	<p>Request: Provide, expand, or enhance Cornerstone and Beacon programs (all ages, including young adults)</p> <p>Explanation: Many of our impoverished families lack financial resources to provide structured activities for their children. We need continued funding of our Cornerstone and Beacon programs which provide a range of free educational, cultural and recreational resources to our children and youth.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Department of Youth & Community Development</p>	<p>This request has already been completed.</p> <p>Explanation: DYCD is funded to continue support of Beacon and Cornerstone community centers.</p>
Housing Authority			
01	216202724E	<p>Request: Other expense budget request for NYCHA</p> <p>Explanation: Replace windows and appliances in apartments at Howard Houses to improve energy efficiency and living conditions for residents.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Housing Authority</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.</p>
Human Resources Administration			
01	216202723E	<p>Request: Provide, expand, or enhance rental assistance programs/vouchers for permanent housing</p> <p>Explanation: According to the American Community Survey, about a third of families in Community District #16 are facing poverty. Many of these families are at risk of losing affordable housing for a variety of reasons, such as minimum wage jobs, temporary unemployed due to illness, and lost of job. Programs such as Homebase are needed to provide families with monetary assistance and resources to remain in permanent housing.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Human Resources Administration</p>	<p>This request has already been completed.</p> <p>Explanation: Homebase and other similar programs are available for all qualified New Yorkers, including District 16.</p> <p>The Agency invites you to use the Homebase locator at https://www.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/homebase-locations.page</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register

Brooklyn

Community District 16

Expense Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority	Tracking Code	Project Information	Agency Response
Police Department			
01	216202726E	<p>Request: Other NYPD staff resources requests</p> <p>Explanation: Distribute new recruits to the 73rd for better coverage of Ocean Hill and Brownsville.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Police Department</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: Based on the latest budget, the NYPD has a specific budgeted headcount. The agency is working on filling vacancies in order to get to that headcount.</p>
02	216202727E	<p>Request: Other NYPD staff resources requests</p> <p>Explanation: The district is experiencing a large number of abandoned cars that need to be identified and removed from our streets. Also, traffic near area schools cause congestion in early morning and afternoon hours. Traffic agents are needed to help mitigate traffic issues.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Police Department</p>	<p>Agency supports but cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: Based on the latest budget, the NYPD has a specific budgeted headcount. The agency is working on filling vacancies in order to get to that headcount.</p>
Transit Authority			
01	216202725E	<p>Request: Improve subway station or train cleanliness, safety and maintenance</p> <p>Explanation: Regularly maintain overgrown weeds and dirty conditions at subway stations along the IRT #3/L-line Junius Street between New Lots Ave and Livonia Avenue.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Transit Authority</p> <p>Supported by: Community Board 16 Nehemiah Homeowners Association</p>	<p>Agency does not support and cannot accommodate</p> <p>Explanation: PLEASE CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

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Antonio Reynoso
Borough President

Irsa Weatherspoon
Chairperson

Michelle T. George
District Manager

March 13, 2026

Testimony Before the Committee on Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Brewer and members of the Committee,

As you review the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2027, I urge you to keep Community Boards in mind. Too often, we are the forgotten city agency. While small in size, we are mighty in impact. Community Boards represent the most local level of government in New York City. We are present in every neighborhood, serving as the eyes and ears of our communities.

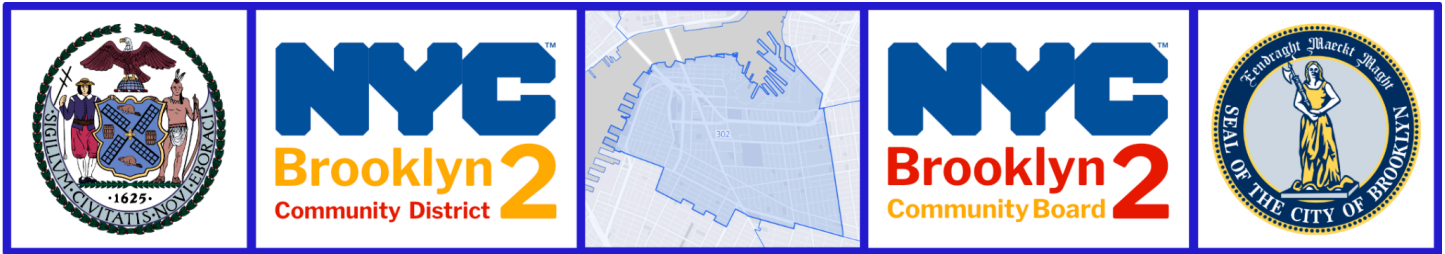
Residents rely on Community Boards as a trusted resource to help them navigate city services and address local concerns. Yet despite the essential role we play, our offices operate with very small staff and have not received a baseline budget increase in more than 20 years.

The work we do is vital to the communities we serve. While the 311 system is a valuable tool for tracking service requests, we all recognize that it has its limitations. Community Boards provide something that technology cannot—boots on the ground, direct engagement, and firsthand knowledge of neighborhood conditions. Day in and day out, we work alongside residents to address issues and improve the quality of life in our communities.

For these reasons, Community Boards deserve to be included in all conversations regarding the City's budget. Investing in Community Boards is an investment in the neighborhoods and residents of New York City.

Thank you for your consideration.


Michelle George
District Manager



March 13, 2025

New York City Council
Committee on Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation
Committee Chair Gale Brewer
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Brewer and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony submitted to highlight the requests made by the Board of Brooklyn Community District 2 in their [FY2027 Statement of Community District Needs](#), specific to this Committee on Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation.

“BKCB2 recommends a comprehensive assessment of our operating and technical needs, and a commensurate increase in our baseline operating budget.”

Community Boards need an infusion of infrastructure and staff investment to meet modern challenges, effectively partner with City agencies, efficiently serve our residents, and support greater community engagement in fulfillment of our City Charter mandates.

This requires a significant periodic investment above our extremely modest annual OTPS allotment. We recommend commitment to a 4-year cycle of operational and technical assessments and upgrades, and an immediate commitment to increase our baseline operating budgets to support infrastructure, public outreach, and staffing:

INFRASTRUCTURE: Community Boards are the most grassroots and accessible level of City government and the public rightfully expects our offices to utilize modern digital tools.

To the best of our knowledge, there has been no Citywide assessment of Community Board technical needs since Windstream acquired PAETEC's municipal contracts in 2011. Recommended assessment and investment should include basic office and field equipment updates; a survey of phone, internet, and broadcasting infrastructure and gaps; a survey of staff training and upskilling needs; and baselining of fundamental tools including design and communication (newsletter) software, and news, database, and research subscriptions which are out of scope of our current OTPS allocation.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Community Boards are the most trusted nonpartisan messenger of complex municipal processes.

Community Boards play a uniquely democratic role in shaping development, addressing neighborhood concerns, ensuring residents have a voice in city decisions, and educating residents about municipal systems and functions. A recurring theme expressed by our City agency partners across all of this year's Borough Budget Consultations was, "*We are budgeted to address [X program/concern], but we need more support with direct local outreach.*" Investing in Community Boards is an investment in accountable, equitable, and responsive government.

Increasing our baseline budget specifically for outreach purposes would strengthen our ability to reach and engage the public, conduct meaningful planning, and respond effectively to community needs. An immediate, simple solution (among many) would be a modest infusion of \$27,000 to facilitate an annual postcard mailer to each of our 163,100 residents (~80,000 households) to inform them of the City Charter-mandated municipal information, resident assistance, and civic participation opportunities available to them through their Community Board and District Office.

This kind of basic outreach will be even more urgent in the coming decade as Community Board term limits take effect next spring, thereby shifting the burden of institutional knowledge from Board Members to District Office staff.

STAFFING: The 59 Community Boards are the smallest City agencies and operate with one third of the staff of the 51 City Council offices despite each serving a similar-sized population.

Managing a Community District's municipal obligations requires a combination of specialized knowledge, strong relationships, and tenured experience. While all City agencies take pride in finding creative ways to "do more with less" in service of the public interest, Community Boards experience the regular absence or attrition of 1 full-time staff person as a crippling loss of 29% of our agency workforce and institutional knowledge.

Further, because our agency headcount is so small, there is little-to-no possibility for internal advancement. Community Boards provide a fantastic opportunity for early-career civil servants to participate in the full scope of local government activity, and to interact with the most senior leadership across all City agencies--only to be forced to look elsewhere in order to advance in title or salary. This City workforce development pipeline should be protected and enhanced, and we recommend a baseline increase of our staffing budget from 3.5 to 4.5 FTE.

Please see attached five-year data representing the steady growth of staff activity. We are doing our part to fulfill our Charter mandate and seek your partnership in a commensurate investment in staffing:

MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITY:

STAFF ING	PERIOD	<u>Community Notices Processed</u>	<u>Municipal Notices Processed</u>	<u>Agency Inquiries Closed</u>	<u>Municipal Applications Processed</u>	<u>Resident Inquiries Closed</u>	
57%	2021 AVG:	594	209	<i>no DM</i>	64	33	
29%	2022 AVG:	959	261	<i>no DM</i>	117	57	
29%	2023 AVG:	971	283	94	125	69	
71%	2024 AVG:	888	387	195	104	42	
86%	2025 AVG:	867	425	110	89	41	
3 of 3.5	86%	JAN	996	409	131	75	50
		FEB	947	424	82	74	39
		MAR					
		APR					
86%	2026 AVG:	972	417	107	75	45	

MONTHLY OUTREACH ACTIVITY:

CUMULATIVE ENGAGEMENT:	<u>DRIVE Cumulative Unique Views</u>	<u>CALENDAR Cumulative Unique Views</u>	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT FORM</u>	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT REVIEW</u>	<u>INSTAGRAM Cumulative Followers</u>
2020	4,424	x	x	x	x
2021	12,939	10,764	x	x	271
2022	19,762	17,231	x	x	578
2023	26,007	23,049	x	x	892
2024	40,652	32,385	x	x	1,147
2025	58,528	44,092	7,819	5,027	1,314
JAN	62,806	45,671	11,392	7,708	1,350
FEB					
MAR					
2026					



New York Coalition



For Open Government, Inc.



Joint Testimony to the NYC Council for Preliminary Budget Hearing - Governmental Operations

*Modest \$255,000 investment by DORIS in OpenRecords portal improvements
required by Local Law 199 of 2025 will encourage better
NYC Freedom of Information Law performance*

March 13, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the preliminary budget as relates to the budget of the Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS). Our organizations were strong supporters of [Intro 1235 of 2025](#), which codifies the NYC [OpenRecords](#) portal for Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests, and requires all city agencies to use it. We applaud the City Council for passing this transformative transparency legislation, which became Local Law 199 on December 26, 2025.

Local Law 199 requires DORIS to release an implementation plan within six months of the law taking effect, which will be June 2026. However, it is our understanding that DORIS has already begun taking steps to implement the law, and is prepared to hire additional staffing and contractors to build new functionality into the OpenRecords portal soon after funding is provided.

We fully support DORIS's request that funding start to be allocated for the remainder of FY 2026, ramping up in FY 2027, so that the agency can have the resources necessary to fully implement the law. This includes the following:

- \$105,000 annually for a permanent new developer for DORIS, which should be pro-rated for FY 2026 to begin the hiring process as soon as possible;
- \$110,000 in OTPS funding for a systems architect and UX designer, likely under the citywide Microsoft contract, which could also be pro-rated for FY 2026; and
- \$12,000 for the remainder of FY 2026, and \$40,000 annually for Azure cloud storage to support the OpenRecords portal.

The total cost for implementation is \$255,000 in FY 2027, but this number will decline once there is less need for contractors to support new functionality under the portal. This is an extremely modest amount in the context of a proposed \$127 billion NYC budget, but will mean a great deal for DORIS as it implements this new law while fulfilling its current responsibilities.

The request from DORIS is also well in line with the City Council and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) fiscal impact statements for Intro 1235, which projected costs between \$215,000 and \$267,000 in FY 2027.

Thank you for your consideration.



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Testimony of Justin Wood, Director of Policy at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest to the New York City Council Committee on Government Operations, State, and Federal Legislation on March 13, 2026, regarding the New York City FY27 Preliminary Budget

My name is Justin Wood , and I am the Director of Policy at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI). Thank you Chair Brewer and members of the Council for the opportunity to comment on the FY2027 Preliminary Budget.

After more than one year in power, the federal administration continues to create unprecedented threats to the rule of law and to New Yorkers’ freedoms, civil rights, access to public services, and access to a healthy environment. New York City legislators must continue to leverage the substantial power of local government to uphold and protect our laws and rights, and to make the major investments needed to protect and strengthen infrastructure, public institutions, and the renewable energy economy.

New York City’s FY 2027 Preliminary Budget

In recent years, the City Council has played a critical role in defending vital city services, investments, and infrastructure from budget cuts and flatlining. We appreciate the Mamdani administration’s transparency about the major fiscal challenges facing New York City. In recent years, the City Council has played a critical role in defending vital city services, investments, and infrastructure from budget cuts and flatlining.

We offer the following comments on the FY27 Preliminary Budget for the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), which plays a critical role in securing New York City’s energy supply, generating affordable renewable energy, and advancing environmental justice and protecting public health.

Expanding the City’s Successful Energy Demand Response Program

We are pleased to see that FY27 budget includes substantial revenue generated by the City’s energy demand response (DR) program. This demand response program has successfully enrolled agency office buildings, schools, museums, and other public buildings in reducing air conditioning, lighting, and other unnecessary electricity usage during summer peaks. This reduces strain on the electrical grid, saves money, reduces reliance on highly polluting and expensive fossil fuel peaker plants sited in environmental justice communities.

While DCAS [has reported](#) that the program has achieved 120 MW in peak electricity reductions and earns about \$15 million annually for various agencies, these energy and cost savings appear

to have plateaued. There appear to be many opportunities for expansion: for example, while [480 schools currently participate in DR programs](#), NY Public Schools has a total of about 1,400 total school buildings.

We recommend that the FY27 budget include ample funding and staffing to expand this program, to ensure that the agency can assess and report on the successes and challenges of the current program and assist utilities and commercial and residential ratepayers in rapidly expanding similar demand response programs.

The FY27 Budget Must Enable DCAS to Support Renewable Energy and Storage Projects

As New Yorkers face sky-high energy bills, extreme temperatures, and escalating fossil fuel prices, New York City must assume leadership in developing affordable renewable energy and storage. We urge the Council to ensure that DCAS has ample funding to meet or exceed the City's solar generation goals, and urge the Department to utilize a diversity of City-owned properties for renewable energy and battery storage projects, including landfills, schools, parking lots, and Rikers Island to maximize solar generation and storage.

Implementation of the Close Rikers and Renewable Rikers Acts

Rikers Island is infamous for inhumane conditions and excessive violence and has become a symbol of a broken criminal legal justice system in which most detainees are men of color from lower income communities around the City. NYLPI strongly supports the passage of [Intro 1038 of 2024](#), which would require DCAS to submit a detailed master plan for the redevelopment of Rikers Island for sustainability and resiliency purposes, including wastewater treatment, and renewable energy generation and storage by the end of 2026. We urge that the FY27 budget include funding for completion of this plan.

Electrifying the City's Fleets

We are concerned by DCAS testimony that the FY27 budget may not put the City on track to meet the electric fleet mandates of Local Law 140 of 2023. We strongly support the City's ongoing transition to zero-emissions light, medium, and heavy vehicle fleets as a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce fuel and maintenance costs, and to reduce tailpipe emissions in environmental justice communities where diesel fleet and fossil fuel infrastructure is unfairly concentrated.

We similarly continue to strongly support the electrification of fleets contracted and regulated by the City, including school buses and for-hire-vehicles.

NYLPI also respectfully requests the following support:

Immigrant Health Initiative

We ask the Council to continue and enhance support for the Immigrant Health Initiative, which continues to save lives and improve health across our city. This program supports more than 20 nonprofits, including NYLPI programs aimed at improving the health and well-being of New Yorkers and their families through direct legal representation, litigation, community education, strategic partnerships with public hospitals, and non-legal advocacy. Through vigorous client and community advocacy and wraparound services, NYLPI improves health outcomes, increases access to healthcare, and provides critical and timely education for communities, healthcare providers, and legal service advocates.

Such access to essential healthcare often results in cost savings for the City, the State, and our safety net health care system when people are able to resume work and productive lives.

As increasing numbers of New Yorkers are detained in immigration jails, we remain one of few organizations focused on medical advocacy and the acute health hazards of immigration detention. In addition, in the face of continued attacks on the asylum process, we have offered culturally competent legal representation, including to those who identify as transgender, gender-expansive, or live with HIV.

Nonprofit Rapid Response Network

The federal administration has focused tremendous power on mass deportations, revocation of racial justice initiatives, claw backs of climate and environmental justice funding, and retribution against those standing up to it. The human cost to New York's disadvantaged communities has already been staggering. Nonprofits and CBOs serving or employing immigrants and other marginalized groups continue to form a critical shield but are also becoming direct targets of federal agencies attempting to conduct raids, chill advocacy, and cut services to people in need.

With continued support from the Speaker and the Protect NYC Families Initiative, our Nonprofit Rapid Response Network will strengthen and protect New York City's nonprofit sector by providing legal resources, relationship-building, practical training, and legal advice and representation to nonprofits and CBOs. It will foster collaboration, build capacity, and distribute essential resources and legal advice to help nonprofits survive attacks by the federal administration.

Nonprofit Contracting Reform

Legal services providers continue to face significant challenges related to timely payments for our contracts with the City. When non-profit legal services organizations take on such contracts, we commit to providing high-quality services, supporting marginalized individuals and communities. We urge the Council to invest adequate resources towards fixing the city's flawed contracting and procurement systems to ensure providers are paid on time. This entails filling long-empty agency vacancies for contracting positions and reforming the payment process, so providers are no longer completing the critical services they are contracted for and then waiting years to receive already allocated funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Justin Wood
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New York, NY 10001
Jwood@nylpi.org

For 50 years, NYLPI has fought to protect civil rights and achieve lived equality for communities in need. Led by community priorities, we pursue health, immigrant, disability, and environmental justice. NYLPI combines the power of law, organizing, and the private bar to make lasting change where it's needed most.

For more information visit: www.nylpi.org



**Testimony of Alia Soomro, Deputy Director for New York City Policy
New York League of Conservation Voters
City Council Committee on Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation
FY27 Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 13, 2026**

My name is Alia Soomro and I am the Deputy Director for New York City Policy at the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). NYLCV is a statewide environmental advocacy organization representing over 30,000 members in New York City. Thank you, Chair Brewer, as well as members of the Committee on Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation for the opportunity to comment.

New York has some of the most ambitious climate laws in the country. In 2016, the City introduced “[80x50](#),” setting an ambitious target of 80% carbon emission reduction by 2050. In 2019, the City enacted Local Law 97, which requires most buildings over 25,000 square feet to cut their carbon emissions or face significant fines. Local Law 97 requires a 40% reduction in emissions from City government operations by FY25 and a 50% reduction by calendar year 2030.

NYLCV urges the City Council and Mamdani Administration to fund agencies tasked with meeting city government greenhouse gas emissions targets, such as the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), whether it’s by sustainably retrofitting city-owned and/or operated buildings to meet Local Law 97 targets, electrifying the city fleet, or scaling up city-owned and/or operated renewable energy such as solar and battery energy storage systems (BESS).

Local Law 97

As mentioned above, meeting Local Law 97’s requirements is essential. DCAS has a vital role to play by supporting city government operations, including overseeing energy management for all City facilities, and directly operating over 50 large public buildings and 15 million square feet of real estate.

As the City approaches the second LL97 compliance period, which is 2026 to 2030, NYLCV recommends ramping up capital funding and staffing for building energy efficiency projects, heat electrification, thermal energy networks, and on-site solar and battery energy storage to reach a 50% reduction by 2030.

City Fleet

NYLCV appreciates the leadership the Council has shown when it comes to moving towards a zero emission fleet. We supported Local Law 140 of 2023, which calls for the full electrification of the City's automobile fleet by 2038, subject to commercial availability and reliability. According to the recently-released [Mayor's Preliminary Management Report](#), we've seen progress from DCAS with the purchase of more electric vehicles (EV). DCAS currently operates the largest EV fleet in New York State, with 5,735 EVs currently in service and 410 additional units on order. Hybrid and alternative-fuel vehicles hit record highs, making up 77% of the citywide fleet and 91% of the DCAS-managed fleet. The remaining traditional gas-powered vehicles are mostly police and emergency response units. We hope to see more progress when it comes to the purchase of EVs and the installation of more EV charging ports, particularly Level 3 fast charging stations. Moreover, we look forward to seeing the rollout of more projects like the [solar carports installed at NYCHA parking lots](#), which are canopies with solar panels that generate renewable energy and feature storm-resilient design, such as batteries elevated above the ground to protect against flooding.

We urge the City to continue allocating capital funding for the full electrification of the city fleet and coordinating with utility companies to expand EV charging infrastructure throughout the city.

Renewable Energy Infrastructure

The City has established a goal of installing 100 Megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) on City-owned buildings by the end of 2030, and 150 MW by the end of 2035, as set forth by Local Law 99 of 2024. The city has made progress when it comes to installing solar; according to the [Mayor's Preliminary Management Report](#), the cumulative installed solar capacity increased from 24.17 MW in FY24 to 31.31 MW in FY25.

We encourage the City to continue allocating capital funding for more solar installations not only on traditional rooftop solar but more innovative applications including solar canopies at parking lots, garages, and wastewater treatment plants, as well as combined solar plus storage projects. We also recommend the continuation of utilizing solar workforce development opportunities.

Battery energy storage systems is another type of renewable energy infrastructure that the City needs to continue prioritizing. These devices enable energy, especially from renewables, like solar and wind, to be stored and then released when the power is needed most.

These systems can help meet grid reliability needs amid growing electricity demand (BESS provides "on-demand" power by storing energy when production is high and deliver it during peak demand), cut costs by mitigating the need for costly traditional fossil-fuel infrastructure upgrades, and dramatically increase the grid's ability to onboard new renewable energy.

By storing clean energy, BESS can reduce reliance on fossil-fuel peaker plants, which are disproportionately located in EJ neighborhoods, that run only during times of high demand.

These peaker plants often emit a disproportionate amount of NO_x, SO₂, and particulate matter, which contribute to respiratory illness like asthma as well as other health risks.

Battery energy storage systems are heavily regulated at the federal, state, and local level. New York City has some of the strictest BESS safety rules in the world. Every BESS site must meet rigorous standards and is reviewed for safety by both FDNY and DOB.

NYLCV recommends that the city allocate capital funding for the installation of BESS on city-owned lots to help us reach our carbon goals. According to the *New York 6 GW Energy Storage Roadmap*, NYC will need approximately 2 GW of energy storage capacity within the five boroughs by 2030. Currently, there is just over 100 MW of energy storage deployed in NYC. This means ~380 MW of energy storage must be installed in the city annually between 2026 and 2030 to meet the 2 GW need.

NYLCV also supports the passage of Intro 359 of 2026, sponsored by Council Member Nurse. This bill would require the Commissioner of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), in coordination with the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability, to identify city-owned lots suitable for installing BESS, develop a plan to achieve the amount of energy storage capacity specified in the bill, and make annual progress reports. By allowing the use of city-owned lots for energy storage, Intro 359 addresses a significant opportunity to increase the City's capacity to store and manage energy more effectively.

NYLCV supports building out BESS on city-owned property and vacant land because it could also offer a new revenue stream for the City as stated in the [Center for an Urban Future's recent report](#). We encourage the Mamdani Administration to move forward with issuing RFPs for building BESS city-owned sites.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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Name: Rob. Connors

Address: _____

I represent: Phil. Chafferson

Address: 1420 Bushwick & Ave.

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Name: Celestina Leon BKCB1

Address: _____ 13 West 17th St

I represent: Brooklyn Community Board 4

Address: _____

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Name: Tara Mueller

Address: 350 Jay St

I represent: BKCB2

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Name: Shawn Campbell

Address: 810 E 16 St Bk CB 14

I represent: BL CB 14

Address: 810 E 16 St

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I represent: OATH

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Name: Vilda Vera Mayuga

Address: 100 Church St. New York, NY 10007

I represent: OATH

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Name: Brian Connell

Address: 160 Church St - 12th Fl

I represent: CATH

Address: _____

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Name: Vincent Ignazio

Address: 42 Broadway

I represent: BOE

Address: _____

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Name: Michael Ryan

Address: 42 Broadway

I represent: BOE

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Name: Jennie Nagle-Indigoyen

Address: _____

I represent: Law Department

Address: _____

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Name: Sheryl Newfold

Address: _____

I represent: Law Department

Address: _____

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Name: Eric Eichenholtz

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I represent: Law Department

Address: _____

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Name: Steven Banks

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I represent: Law Department

Address: _____

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Name: Shanna Middleton

Address: 1 Centre

I represent: DCAJ

Address: _____

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Name: Roman Gotman

Address: _____

I represent: DCAJ

Address: _____

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Name: Yume K. Tasei

Address: _____

I represent: DCAS

Address: 1 Centre Street

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Name: SILVIA MONTALBAN

Address: DCAS 1 Centre St.

I represent: DCAS

Address: _____

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Name: Patrick Benn

Address: 1 Center st

I represent: DCAS

Address: _____

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Name: BRIAN CHANG

Address: 1 CENTRE ST.

I represent: DCAS

Address: _____

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Name: Math Sullivan

Address: [REDACTED] 1 Centre St

I represent: DCAS

Address: 1 Centre St

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Name: Nitin Patel

Address: [REDACTED] Bayonne NJ 07002

I represent: DCAS

Address: 1 Centre St. NY 10007

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Name: Keith Herman

Address: 1 Centre Street

I represent: DCAS NYC

Address: _____

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Name: Laura Ringelheim

Address: 1 Centre St

I represent: DCAS

Address: 1 Centre St

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Name: JOSEPH WILKINSON

Address: 1 CENTRE ST

I represent: DCAS

Address: 1 CENTRE ST

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Name: Michael Clark

Address: 1 Centre Street

I represent: DCAS

Address: _____

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Name: Katrina Porter

Address: 1 Centre Street

I represent: DCAS

Address: 1 Centre Street

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Name: Shameka Overton

Address: 1 Centre Street

I represent: DCAS

Address: _____

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