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Budget Update Budget Update Budget Update Budget Update Budget Update Budget Update

DEAR NEIGHBOR:

After several months of negotiations, the City Council has just approved New York City's \$70 billion budget. This newsletter highlights important funding decisions and restorations made by the Council, with a focus on local programs. My staff and I worked hard to ensure funding for parks, schools, senior centers, cultural institutions, and other important facilities in District 6. The New York City Council website at <http://council.nyc.gov/html/budget/fy14/documents.shtml> offers a detailed look at the expense and capital budgets.

This is my twelfth and final budget as your Council Member, and I thank everyone who contacted my office about particular budget needs as we negotiated this year. The budget is a product of your tax dollars, and my most important guide is input from constituents regarding the programs you value most. As always, it is an honor to represent the City's most involved, informed, and committed community.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer
Council Member



Ribbon cutting on June 21, 2013 for the renovated Tecumseh Playground, the "Big Yard" operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation at P.S. 87. (Photo by Shula Warren)

2013-2014 BUDGET UPDATE

COUNCIL MEMBER GALE A. BREWER

SCHOOLS

As always, District 6 schools were one of my top priorities in this year's budget, and I was able to secure funding for many exciting projects. I was able to provide capital funds for the school projects which are listed below.

The Council allocated an enhanced **\$4.585 million** for the Teacher's Choice Initiative which reimburses teachers for the cost of purchasing school supplies out-of-pocket; and funded other important education initiatives including **\$3 million** for The After-School Corporation (including the LACASA program at P.S. 84, sponsored by Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council); **\$2.25 million** for full-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten; \$1 million for the Drop-Out Prevention Initiative; **\$1 million** for the Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation; **\$800,000** for the New York Junior Tennis League; and **\$275,000** for MOUSE, an innovative IT program.

Another important school funding restoration was the **\$2.5 million** provided to the Urban Advantage Science Education

program. This program, administered by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), provides a unique, innovative Middle School science curriculum to schools and cultural institutions in all five boroughs. Students participating in the program prepare for careers in STEM fields, one of our nation's top educational goals.

The Council also funds the Cultural After-School Adventure (CASA) program which allows each Council Member to provide **\$20,000** for innovative partnerships between cultural institutions and schools at 5 locations. In the past, I have funded partnerships between Studio in a School and P.S. 75; AMNH and P.S. 166; Wingspan Arts and P.S. 191; the New-York Historical Society and P.S. 84; and the Children's Museum of Manhattan and the Mickey Mantle School. In District 6, I also provided discretionary funds for after-school programs at Goddard Riverside Community Center; Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center; the Computer School; P.S. 75; and other education programs:

- ◆ CFY (formerly Computers for Youth)
- ◆ CUNY Creative Arts Team
- ◆ PFLAG
- ◆ Funding for P.S. 87 and P.S. 199 for Landmark West! programs
- ◆ Studio in a School
- ◆ Wellness in the Schools
- ◆ Chess-in-the-Schools
- ◆ Fresh Youth Initiatives
- ◆ Learning Leaders
- ◆ Reading Reform Foundation
- ◆ YWCA

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY)

The West Side is fortunate to be home to two CUNY institutions, John Jay College and the Macaulay Honors College. The Council provides funding for several important initiatives at CUNY, including **\$2.5 million** for the Black Male Initiative (BMI); **\$200,000** for the Creative Arts Team; **\$470,000** for the Center for Puerto Rican Studies; **\$470,000** for the Dominican Studies Institute; **\$100,000** for the Murphy Institute Center for Worker Education; and more. There are two BMI programs at John Jay College, and many more across all CUNY campuses.

2014 CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ✓ Acoustic Sound Rooms/ Pods at M859 (Special Music High School) | ✓ Collaborative) Technology Upgrade at PS 166M (Richard Rodgers) | ✓ Layered Access Security at NYCHA- WSUR A (120 W 94 St) |
| ✓ Technology Upgrade at HS 479M (Beacon) | ✓ Auditorium Upgrade at PS 191M (Museum Magnet) | ✓ Layered Access Security at NYCHA- WSUR B (74 W 94 St) |
| ✓ Lobby and Fitness Room at HS 541M (Hunter Science) | ✓ Science Center at PS 199M (Jesse Isador Straus) | ✓ Playground Renovation at Bennerson Playground, Amsterdam Houses/Addition NYCHA |
| ✓ Technology Upgrade at HS 485M (LaGuardia) | ✓ Technology Upgrade at MS 256M (Academic and Athletic Excellence) | ✓ Park Reconstruction at St. Gregory's Park |
| ✓ Bathroom Renovation at PS 452M | ✓ Auditorium Upgrade at PS 9M / MS 243 | ✓ Dog Run Renovation at Theodore Roosevelt Park |
| ✓ Green Roof/Rooftop Garden at PS 84M (Lilian Weber) | ✓ Auditorium Upgrade at PS 87M (William T. Sherman) | ✓ Renovations of the Broadway Malls |
| ✓ Gymnasium /Athletic Facility at HS 544M (Independence) | ✓ Technology Upgrade at Service Program for Older People | ✓ Audio Visual Equipment at NYPL- Library for Performing Arts |
| ✓ Technology Upgrade at MS 245M (Computer School) | ✓ Layered Access Security at NYCHA- 589 Amsterdam WSURA | ✓ Atrium Audio Equipment at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts |
| ✓ Security Cameras at MS 247M (Dual Language) | ✓ Layered Access Security at NYCHA- Harborview Terrace | ✓ Renovation of the Carriage House at Ballet Hispanico |
| ✓ Security Cameras at PS 334M (Anderson) | | ✓ Renovations at Symphony Space |
| ✓ Technology Upgrade at MS 250M (West Side) | | |

OTHER PROGRAMS RECEIVING EXPENSE FUNDING:

- ✓ Big Apple Greeter
- ✓ The Bridge
- ✓ Committee for Environmentally Sound Development
- ✓ Department of Transportation for free bike helmet giveaways
- ✓ Jewish Community Center in Manhattan
- ✓ NonProfit Help Desk
- ✓ Momentum Project
- ✓ Outstanding Renewal Enterprises (Lower East Side Ecology Center)
- ✓ ParentJobNet
- ✓ West Side Campaign Against Hunger (West Side Center for Community Life)
- ✓ Wild Bird Fund
- ✓ Citizen Schools
- ✓ GrowNYC
- ✓ Lincoln Square BID
- ✓ Police Liaison Group

COUNCIL MEMBER GALE A. BRE

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Mayor's Executive Budget sought over **\$100 million** in devastating cuts to child care and after-school programs. The Council restored over **\$57 million** for discretionary child care slots, and **\$5 million** for child care vouchers. Without these subsidized child care slots, thousands of working parents would be forced to make a terrible choice between working and taking care of their young children. These slots allow working parents to keep their jobs and boost our economy by allowing parents to work instead of going on public assistance.

The Council also restored over **\$51 million** for the Out-of-School Time Initiative which represents approximately **30,000** after-school slots, including those at P.S. 191 that are provided by Roads to Success, and at DeHostos Community Center, provided by Stryckers Bay Neighborhood Council.

In another vitally important restoration, the Council allocated **\$7.1 million** for the Runaway and Homeless Youth program that provides shelter beds, street outreach, and support services for the estimated 3,800 young people who are sleeping on our streets. Other restorations include **\$2.5 million** for Adult Literacy services; over **\$2 million** for food pantry programs such as Advent Lutheran Church, B'Nai Jeshurun, and Stephen Wise Free Synagogue; **\$2 million** for the Teen RAPP program; **\$50,000** for the YMCA Teens Take the City program; and **\$335,000** to expand EBT availability at food markets across the city.

In my District, I funded youth programs like the Poet-Linc program at Lincoln Center, now in its second year of providing a poetry slam series to develop

writing and public speaking skills in underserved youths; Big Apple Circus; Positive Influence, which runs a popular basketball league for young people at Amsterdam Houses and Amsterdam Addition; the Young People's Chorus; Wingspan Arts; and The Broadway League- which last year took families to *Annie*, *Cinderella*, and *Kinky Boots*. In addition, I also provided Expense Funding to the following organizations:

- **Bella Abzug Leadership Institute**
- **Children's Museum of Manhattan**
- **Cool Culture**
- **Citywide Youth Opera**
- **Literacy, Inc. (LINC)**
- **New York City Ballet**
- **Vivian Beaumont Theater (Lincoln Center Theater)**
- **Border Crossers**
- **Common Cents**
- **DOME Project**
- **Kaufman Music Center**
- **Frog and Peach Theatre**
- **Kids Creative**
- **New-York Historical Society**
- **New York City ACT-SO**
- **New York City Center**
- **Shadow Box Theatre**
- **MOUSE**

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND LEGAL SERVICES

It is a top concern for me that health, safety and legal services are protected, and the Council was able to restore funding to several essential programs. The Council provided **\$5.3 million** to HIV/AIDS Services Administration for vital health services and for offsite locations, and restored **\$44 million** to prevent the closure of any fire companies. Additionally, the Council allocated **\$4.3 million** for the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative and **\$800,000** to the CUNY Citizenship Now! program. Other important initiatives and organizations receiving funding include:

- **Sexual Assault Initiative** (including the St.Luke's-Roosevelt Crime Victims Treatment Center)
- **The DoVE Initiative**, which will now provide funding for a domestic violence program in the 6th District
- **Immigrant Battered Women's Initiative**
- Health Initiatives such as the **Cancer Initiative**, **Asthma Control Program**, **NYU Dental Van**, and the **Obesity Intervention Program**
- Legal Initiatives like **Citywide Civil Legal Services and Legal Services for the Working Poor**
- Mental health programs like the **Autism Initiative** (including at the JCC of Manhattan), **Children Under 5 Initiative**, **Geriatric Mental Health** (including at SPOP), **Mental Health Contracts**, **Suicide Prevention**, and **Young Adult Initiative**
- **Alternatives to Incarceration**, which provides rehabilitation services for low-level offenders, rather than traditional jail time
- Capital Funding for **Nontraditional Employment for Women**

PARKS

Funding our parks is always a priority on the West Side. According to the New York Times, I am among the top four Council Members allocating capital funds for parks. Overall, the Council restored **\$1 million** for 30 additional Playground Associates; over **\$1 million** to keep all City pools open for a full season; and **\$2 million** in additional funding for tree stump removal services. I was also able to fund parks projects at Bennerson Playground; St. Gregory's Park; Broadway Malls; and the dog run at Theodore Roosevelt Park.

In addition, I provided Expense Funding to the following organizations:

- **Broadway Mall Maintenance Fund**
- **West 87 Street Park and Garden**
- **West Side Community Garden**

POWER - BUDGET UPDATE 2013-2014

LIBRARIES

Yet again, the Council was put in the difficult position of restoring over **\$100 million** in proposed cuts to the three city library systems. I have been a staunch advocate for libraries during my term in office, and I am very pleased that, by reaching an agreement with the Administration, we were able to provide approximately **\$40 million** for the New York Public Library branches; **\$7.5 million** for research libraries; **\$30 million** to the Brooklyn Public Library; and **\$30 million** for the Queens Borough system. I want to extend a special thank you to the thousands of West Siders who sent letters and emails to my office advocating for libraries. We certainly heard you at the Council, and our restorations maintain funding at the current level of service. On the capital side, I was also able to allocate **\$35,000** for audiovisual upgrades at the NYPL Library for the Performing Arts; and the NYPL received over **\$11 million** in Capital Funding.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Council and Administration, recognizing that our cultural institutions are among New York's greatest educational, artistic, and economic development assets, restored almost **\$40 million** to the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG); which includes the AMNH, Carnegie Hall, David H. Koch Theater, Lincoln Center, New York City Center, and New York City Ballet, all on the West Side. The City also supports smaller cultural institutions, and we provided the Cultural Development Fund with **\$14 million** for grants to cultural organizations through a peer-reviewed, merit-based application process, and **\$700,000** for the Coalition of Theaters of Color.

I allocated Expense Funding for other District 6 cultural organizations, including Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts for their Meet the

Artist Saturdays; the American Folk Art Museum; The Carnegie Hall Corporation to provide free concerts; Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre; Forum on Law, Culture & Society; Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance; Jazz at Lincoln Center; the Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York; New York Classical Theater; New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players; New York Women in Film and Television; openhousenewyork (OHNY); OPERA America; Women's Project Theater; Alvin Ailey; Lotus Music & Dance; Museum of Arts and Design; Riverside Symphony; Symphony Space; and Arts in Action.

I was also able to secure Capital Funding for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Ballet Hispanico, AMNH, New York City Ballet, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the New-York Historical Society, Symphony Space, the School of American Ballet, CUNY TV, the Metropolitan Opera, Vivian Beaumont Theater, Downtown Community Television Center, Carnegie Hall, and THIRTEEN.

SENIORS

The Council restored **\$5.5 million** for case management services provided by the Department for the Aging to reduce case management ratios; **\$3 million** for Senior Centers; (including **\$412,000** to keep JASA Club 76 open); **\$800,000** for Elder Abuse programs; **\$1 million** for Information & Referral Contracts; **\$900,000** for Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) support services; **\$400,000** for Social Adult Day Care; and **\$1 million** for the CityMeals on Wheels program. Other senior programs receiving funding include Older Adults Technology Services (OATS), which provides technology training and services to seniors. On the West Side, I allocated Capital Funding for the Service Program for Older People (SPOP), and Expense

Funding to the National Council of Jewish Women (Council Lifetime Learning); New York Foundation for Senior Citizens; Stratford Arms Meal Program; West Side Inter-Agency Council for the Aging (WSIACA); DOROT; Find Aid for the Aged (Project FIND); Goddard Riverside Community Center; the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA) JPAC program, Club 76 and St. Martin's NORC; Aging in Place/ NY Academy of Medicine; Lincoln Housing Outreach; Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center; Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty; One Stop Senior Services; Pan Asian Repertory Theatre; Selfhelp Community Services; Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE); Vocal Ease, which performs in senior centers; Medicare Rights Center; SPOP; and Concerts in Motion, to provide concerts for homebound elderly.

HOUSING

The Council provides funding for a number of important housing initiatives, including the Housing Preservation Initiative, which funds monthly housing clinics with free attorneys from Goddard Riverside Community Center SRO Law Project, Urban Justice, and Stroock & Stroock & Lavan. Other housing groups that I allocate funding for include:

- **Community Assisted Tenant Controlled Housing (CATCH)**, to work with residents of 165 W. 80 St.
- **Housing Conservation Coordinators**
- **New York State Tenants and Neighbors Information Service**
- Funding for family days and tenant associations in all **11 NYCHA developments** in the District
- **Stryckers Bay Neighborhood Council**
- Capital funding for **Broadway Housing Communities**