A Message from Melissa

Dear Constituents and Friends:

I am writing to provide an update on the Fiscal Year 2012 budget, which was adopted by the City Council on June 29th.

Mayor Bloomberg again this year refused to demonstrate leadership in advocating for the wealthiest among us to put in their fair share, and instead proposed a number of deep cuts to critical municipal and human services. As always, the City Council set out to negotiate with the Mayor to preserve funding for core services. Considering where we began with the Mayor’s proposal, the final adopted budget puts us in a much better place for this fiscal year. While some programs were reduced or eliminated, we managed to avoid over 4,000 teacher layoffs, 20 firehouse closures and other cuts that would have devastated our social safety net.

This report provides information on some of the restorations the City Council was able to make, as well as a breakdown of the discretionary dollars that I was able to secure for our district this year. I hope that you will continue to keep up with the work of my office by visiting our blog, Facebook and Twitter pages at www.mmviverito.com.

Though hard to imagine, next year’s budget is expected to be worse. It will be more important than ever that we all unite in pressuring the administration to finally stand up for the majority of this city by asking for shared sacrifice from the wealthy and Wall Street. I hope I can continue to count on your support as I keep driving that message home.

Sincerely,

Melissa

Inside this Report...

- City Council Initiatives and Restorations
- Discretionary Dollars Secured for Our District
- Critical Issue Areas: Combating Youth Violence, Supporting NYCHA Developments, Services for Our Seniors

Follow the Work of Our Office

Melissa joins community groups in calling for alternative revenue sources to avoid cuts to education and human services.
Each year, the City Council has the ability to put hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts proposed by the current administration back into the budget, while also negotiating with the administration to find alternative cuts that would spare core services. While not all of the budget reductions could be restored this year, some of the most painful cuts were avoided thanks to the work of the City Council.

Restorations at a Glance...

More than 4,000 teacher layoffs were avoided.

All fire engine companies will remain open.

Many of the City day care slots were restored.

The closure of four public pools and the shortening of the pool season were averted.

Millions were restored to senior centers to keep them open.

Cuts to child protective services and child welfare staff were restored.

The budget proposed by the Mayor this year included severe cuts to critical services for New Yorkers. During the negotiation process, the Council put up its own funds and found alternative cuts to present to the Mayor so that we could arrive at a fairer and more responsible budget. Of course, not all funds could be restored, and some programs were sadly eliminated due to structural deficits in the City’s budget.

As a result of an agreement negotiated between the administration, the City Council and the UFT, more than 4,000 teachers will remain in our classrooms. All fire engine companies slated for closure, one of which was close to our district in the Bronx were spared, as were four public pools, including Wagner Pool in El Barrio/East Harlem. Senior centers in our district and throughout the city received millions of dollars in restorations by the Council, without which they would have to close their doors. The Council also prioritized staff positions in Child Protective Services and Child Welfare that help keep our children safe.

Due to the depth of the cut to child care services, the Council arrived at a partial restoration of over $40 million which, together with an additional restoration by the Mayor, we believe will restore services to the maximum number of families possible.

Melissa speaks at Upper Manhattan Unity Rally Against Child Care Cuts, held this spring.
Here is a sampling of just some of the Council-funded initiatives, the total amounts they received this Fiscal Year and the local organizations and schools serving District 8 residents that benefit from a portion of this funding:

**Domestic Violence and Empowerment (DoVE) ($2.5 million)**
Violence Intervention Program (VIP), Greenhope Services for Women, Edwin Gould Services for Children & Families, SCAN-NY and Manhattan Legal Services

**Urban Advantage Science Education Program ($2 million)**
Local schools include Esperanza Preparatory Academy, Renaissance School of the Arts, PS 171, Global Neighborhood Secondary School, Young Women’s Leadership School, PS 108, Isaac Newton JHS, TAG Scholars and Mott Hall II.

**Asthma Control Program ($500,000)**
Union Settlement runs this program in 70 day care centers in El Barrio/East Harlem and Central Harlem.

**Housing Preservation Initiative ($1.25 million)**
Pueblo en Marcha and Picture the Homeless

**HIV/AIDS in Communities of Color ($1.125 million)**
AIDS Service Center NYC, Bailey House, Iris House, St. Ann’s Corner of Harm Reduction, Bronx Community Pride Center

**Immigrant Opportunities Initiative ($4 million)**
Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services, the Urban Justice Center, CUNY Immigration & Citizenship Project and MFY Legal Services

**Injection Drug Users Health Alliance ($1 million)**
Harlem United Community AIDS Center and St. Ann’s Corner of Harm Reduction

**Mental Health Contracts ($450,000)**
Children’s Aid Society

**Autism Awareness Initiative ($1.25 million)**
Sinergia
Melissa helped secure nearly $1 million in expense funding in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget for projects in District 8.

Over $800,000 in expense dollars are coming to organizations in our district, through Melissa’s member items, additional funds provided through the support and special consideration of Council Speaker Christine Quinn, and dollars allocated through the Manhattan Delegation. These dollar amounts do not include the funding provided to local groups through the Council initiatives described on Page 3.

Here is a breakdown of how District 8 organizations will benefit from this funding in Fiscal Year 2012:

- **$306,000** for Youth Services and Programming
- **$111,000** for Senior Services and Programs
- **$108,000** for Cultural Programs and Arts Education
- **$209,000** for Health & HIV/AIDS-Related Services
- **$80,000** for Services for Formerly-Incarcerated Women and Men
- **$45,000** for Housing-Related Services & Advocacy
- **$46,000** for Economic & Workforce Development
- **$30,000** for Services for Parents Involved in the Child Welfare System
- **$28,000** for Parks & Environmental Programming
- **$27,000** for Local Food Pantries
- **$15,000** for Our NYCHA Resident Associations

Expense funding is allocated to local organizations for costs associated with offering direct services and programming in our district.

**WHICH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN FUNDED?**

The Council will soon update its searchable online budget database where expense allocations from all members can be viewed. The database will be available at [http://council.nyc.gov/html/budget/council_disclosure_funding.shtml](http://council.nyc.gov/html/budget/council_disclosure_funding.shtml).


**CITYWIDE ORGANIZATIONS**

Melissa also advocates for funding from the Speaker for larger organizations that serve the city as a whole. She is listed in the budget as a co-sponsor of nearly $2 million in City Council funding for citywide organizations, most of which serve District 8 residents directly.
Melissa secured nearly $12 million in funding in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget for capital projects in District 8.

Over $12 million have been allocated by Melissa for capital projects in District 8, many in conjunction with the Speaker, her colleagues in the Council and the administration. This funding will support critical investments in our district’s infrastructure.

- Our schools will receive a total of $660,000 to purchase new laptops and smart boards, and an additional $500,000 will be invested in the rooftop garden at PS/IS 50.
- Nearly $1 million will be invested in cameras and layered access technology in NYCHA developments.
- $700,000 has been allocated for first floor renovations of the New York Public Library’s Bloomingdale Branch.
- $2 million will be invested in additional upgrades at La Marqueta, in conjunction with Speaker Quinn.
- Nearly $5 million will be dedicated to capital upgrades at the Museum of the City of New York and the Museum of African Art, thanks to support from the City Council and the administration.
- The Betances and Covello senior centers will receive a total of $150,000 for much-needed upgrades.
- $350,000 will be invested in the creation of El Barrio/East Harlem’s first skate park.
- $500,000 will be dedicated for the construction of income-targeted housing as part of the new Harlem RBI housing and school project.
- $250,000 in additional funding has been allocated for the ArtSpace/P.S. 109 project to provide affordable housing for local artists.
- $450,000 will be invested in the theater space in the Julia de Burgos Latino Cultural Center.
- $512,000 has been allocated to the New York Academy of Medicine for energy efficiency upgrades.

Capital funding is allocated to schools, non-profit organizations and city agencies to purchase equipment or to support construction projects.
Unfortunately, our communities have been witnessing an increase in violence among our young people. That is why our office convened the El Barrio/East Harlem Youth Violence Task Force. In this budget cycle, Melissa prioritized allocating funds to those youth organizations that work directly to address issues around gangs in our neighborhoods and those that offer young people positive alternatives to violence.

Here are some of the organizations we are supporting this year through discretionary funding that are also involved in efforts to curb youth violence in our district:

**Council for Unity**
The funding allocated to Council for Unity will enable this organization to run gang and youth violence prevention and intervention workshops in El Barrio/East Harlem.

**City Year**
City Year is an exemplary organization which gives young people in El Barrio/East Harlem positive alternatives to violence. They are receiving an allocation this year to continue to support that important work.

**Downtown Community Television**
DCTV will use its allocation to provide the Beyond Bullets anti-gun violence media screenings and workshops at high schools and community organizations in District 8.

**Hoops by the River**
HBTR is another organization providing positive alternatives to youth. They will use part of their funding to support their annual Stop the Violence event.

**New Yorkers Against Gun Violence**
NYAGV will provide youth development programming for young people interested in gun violence prevention.

**Peace on the Street**
Peace on the Street will provide anger management and other programming for District 8 youth, particularly teenagers involved with the child welfare system and those at risk of incarceration.

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**About the Youth Violence Task Force**
Established by Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, the El Barrio/East Harlem Youth Violence Task Force is a collaborative dedicated to addressing the rise in youth violence in East Harlem, through progressive strategies that will engage and empower local young people. The Task Force, which is comprised of youth organizations and other community leaders, aims to directly involve young people in the development of positive alternatives that will counter the increase in violence among youth. For more information, contact Elsie Encarnación at 212-828-9800 or eencarnacion@council.nyc.gov.

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**New Skate Park is on its Way in El Barrio/East Harlem**
At a meeting convened by the Youth Violence Task Force, young people asked our office to explore creating a skate park in El Barrio/East Harlem. As a result of this meeting, Melissa worked to allocate $350,000 in capital funds this year for the construction of a local skate park.
SUPPORTING NYCHA DEVELOPMENTS

Supporting our public housing developments remains a priority for Melissa. She has allocated $15,000 in funds to support Family Days held by NYCHA tenant associations as well as nearly $1 million in capital dollars to help make developments safer.

All of our TAs received funds this year to help support the cost of holding their annual Family Days. Meanwhile, Melissa allocated additional funds to provide cameras as well as NYCHA’s new layered access technology to four developments in our district. Melissa will continue to allocate capital funds in the coming years so that all of our local developments will be equipped with the latest technology to keep NYCHA residents safe.

SERVICES FOR OUR SENIORS

Our office continues to work so that District 8 is an enjoyable place to live for our older adults. Accordingly, Melissa has secured $111,000 for organizations serving local seniors as well as $150,000 for capital upgrades to two senior centers.

Melissa’s office has sponsored the city’s first ever Age Improvement District (AID) in El Barrio/East Harlem. She has increased her allocation to the New York Academy of Medicine, our partner in this program, to ensure that the reach of the AID continues to grow. Melissa also continued her support for organizations providing critical services for seniors, whether at senior centers or in their homes.

The capital dollars allocated to the Betances Senior Center, together with an investment from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo will fund the much-needed repair of the center’s roof. Additional moneys were allocated for a new wheelchair lift at the Covello Senior Center.
Thank you for reviewing our report on the budget and its impact on District 8. We hope that you will continue to stay connected with the work of our office as we utilize social media to engage and communicate with our constituents on a regular basis.

As always, please feel free to contact our City Hall Office regarding any legislative and budgetary matters, or our District Office for constituent services.