

Melissa

MARK VIVERITO

DISTRICT 8 & THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET

A Message from Melissa

Dear Constituents and Friends,

I am writing to provide an update on the outcome of this year's budget negotiations. The Fiscal Year 2011 Budget, which was adopted by the City Council yesterday, has some of the deepest cuts this city has seen in recent memory, including reductions to basic municipal and social services.

Over the past few months, the Council's Progressive Caucus, which I co-chair, has sought to push the conversation forward on the need for Wall Street and our wealthiest residents to contribute their fair share in order to close the budget gap. Ultimately, the administration remained opposed to even having a discussion on these proposals, again asking working New Yorkers to bear the largest burden of these painful cuts.

Fortunately, the Council was able to restore some of the deepest cuts to services proposed by the Mayor and also preserve the City Council initiatives that help provide services to New Yorkers across the City. Additionally, I am very pleased to report that I have secured millions of dollars in funding for organizations and capital projects in our district. This report provides breakdowns of the Council restorations as well as the discretionary funding I have allocated to District 8 in the Fiscal Year 2011 budget.

So many of you have called my office or sent letters to register your concerns regarding the budget. I truly appreciate your involvement in this process. I hope you will take a moment to read this report and that you will keep up with the work of my office by visiting and subscribing to our blog: <http://www.newsfrommelissa.wordpress.com>.

Sincerely,



Council Restorations & Initiatives

This year, the City Council was faced with an unprecedented level of cuts to both Council initiatives and City agencies that provide vital services throughout our city.

In total, the Council was able to put hundreds of millions of dollars back into the Fiscal Year 2011 budget, protecting fire engine companies, public pools, day care classrooms and some senior centers, that would otherwise have been slated for closure.

For more details on the Council's restorations, see Page 2.

District 8 Discretionary Funding

This year, Melissa has secured **over \$1.2 million** in expense funding and over **\$6 million** in capital funding for El Barrio/East Harlem, Manhattan Valley and Mott Haven.

This funding is critical to support organizations in our neighborhoods that are providing important services, while also continuing to provide new technology in our schools, improve our parks, help make our public housing developments safer and upgrade important cultural and health centers.

For more details on the discretionary funding coming to our district this Fiscal Year, see Page 3.

CITY COUNCIL RESTORATIONS & INITIATIVES

Each year, the City Council has the opportunity to restore some of the cuts made by the current administration, including the many Council initiatives that are typically cut out of the Executive Budget each year.

For Fiscal Year 2011, the Council was able to restore over \$300 million. While this was clearly not enough to cover the City's budget gap, the Council was able to avoid some harmful cuts.

RESTORATIONS

The Council restored several cuts made by the Bloomberg administration. As a result of these restorations:

- Twenty **fire engine companies** will remain open
- All **public pools** will be open this summer for the full season
- **Libraries** will be kept at an average of five day service, after cuts threatened to close dozens of branches and reduce service to as low as two days per week
- Many **senior centers** will be saved
- 72 **childcare classrooms**, 3,000 **preventive services slots** and 200 **ACS staff positions** will be restored
- **Out of School Time (OST)** programs and **Beacon Centers** citywide have been saved

For more information, see the Council's Schedule C at <http://council.nyc.gov/html/releases/pdfs/FY2011.SkedC.pdf>.

INITIATIVES

The City Council allocates millions of dollars each year to Council Initiatives, which provide funding to local organizations to provide innovative programming and services in neighborhoods throughout the city.

The following is a selection of the initiatives the Council was able to save this year, either partially or in full:

- Domestic Violence Empowerment (DoVE)
- Consortium for Worker Education (CWE)
- Jobs to Build On
- Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI)
- Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC)
- Housing Preservation Initiative
- Alternatives to Incarceration
- Food Pantries Initiative
- CUNY's Black Male Initiative
- Cultural After School Adventures (CASA)
- Adult Literacy Initiative
- Asthma Control Program

For a full list, download the Council's Schedule C at <http://council.nyc.gov/html/releases/pdfs/FY2011.SkedC.pdf>.



Melissa fighting for restorations to the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (Photo by William Alatraste).

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS FOR DISTRICT 8

Melissa fights hard every year during the budget process to bring much-needed resources to our district. This funding is generally broken down into EXPENSE (for local organizations' programmatic costs) and CAPITAL (for equipment or construction costs).

EXPENSE FUNDING

Melissa has helped secure over \$1.2 million in expense funding for District 8, through member items, caucuses, delegations, Council Initiatives, and the support and extra consideration of the Speaker's Office. These allocations include:

- Nearly **\$400,000** for Youth Services and Programming, including **\$108,500** for Arts Education
- Over **\$187,000** for Senior Services and Programs
- Over **\$185,000** for Domestic Violence Services
- Over **\$68,000** for Services for Formerly-Incarcerated Women and Men
- **\$105,000** for Housing-Related Services & Advocacy
- **\$90,000** for Small Business & Workforce Development
- **\$72,000** for Health and Environmental Programs
- **\$48,000** for Local Cultural & Arts Programming
- **\$30,000** for Adult Literacy Services
- **\$17,500** for Neighborhood Preservation Initiatives
- **\$16,000** for Local Food Pantries
- **\$15,000** for Our NYCHA Resident Associations

NOTE: Many Council Initiatives have not yet been designated to local groups and therefore are not included in these numbers.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Melissa has helped secure over \$6 million in capital funding for District 8 in the FY 2011 budget, through member items, caucuses, delegations and with the support and extra consideration of the Speaker's Office, including:

- Over **\$1.4 million** for Technology Upgrades in Our Schools
- **\$1 million** for Park Renovations
- Over **\$1 million** for Security Cameras in Our NYCHA Developments
- Over **\$1.6 million** for Our Museums and Cultural Spaces
- **\$500,000** for Renovations of Our Libraries
- **\$250,000** for Upgrades to the Betances Senior Center
- **\$400,000** for Upgrades to Health Centers Serving District 8 Residents

WHICH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN FUNDED?

The Council now has a searchable online budget database where expense allocations from all members can be viewed. The database is available at <http://council.nyc.gov/html/budget/council-disclosure-fy11.shtml>. You can also view all FY11 budget documents at <http://council.nyc.gov/html/budget/fy2011.shtml>.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FISCAL YEAR 2012

CONTINUING THE FIGHT FOR NEW SOURCES OF REVENUE IN OUR CITY'S BUDGET

While the Council was able to make a number of important restorations, there were still about a billion dollars in funding cuts to basic services that help youth, seniors, immigrants and low-income families throughout our city.

Though it's hard to believe, projections have indicated that our next Fiscal Year will be even worse, with stimulus funding expiring and mounting deficits at the State level.

In the coming year, the Progressive Caucus will continue to fight for new revenue generating options such as a progressive City income tax reform and closing a tax loophole on hedge fund managers. The City simply cannot wait any longer to implement these critical fair share reforms.

We hope you will join us in these efforts. Please keep up with the work of our office on this and other matters by utilizing the links on the right.

CONTACT OUR OFFICE

City Hall Office:
250 Broadway
NY, NY 10007
(212) 788-6960

District Office:
105 E. 116th Street
NY, NY 10029
(212) 828-9800

KEEP UP WITH THE WORK OF OUR OFFICE

VISIT OUR BLOG:

[www.newsfrommelissa.
wordpress.com](http://www.newsfrommelissa.wordpress.com)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR LISTSERV:

[www.tinyurl.com/
mmvsubscribe](http://www.tinyurl.com/mmvsubscribe)

FACEBOOK:

[www.tinyurl.com/
melissafb](http://www.tinyurl.com/melissafb)

TWITTER:

[www.twitter.com/
newsfrommelissa](http://www.twitter.com/newsfrommelissa)

VIDEO CHANNEL:

mmv.vodspot.tv