



NEWS FROM COUNCIL MEMBER AMANDA FARÍAS

18th Council District, Bronx

SPRING 2022

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18TH COUNCIL DISTRICT, BRONX

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

District 18's first year of Participatory Budgeting is up and running!

Our office received the most proposals in The Bronx, with 30+ suggested proposals. Bringing Participatory Budgeting to District 18 means residents can propose, evaluate, and vote on \$1 million worth of capital projects. The process of building the ballot and running the public voting process will be led by our 4 in-district budget delegates with assistance from our office. Voting will be taking place in early April so keep an eye out for more information on how to vote! Follow our social media or reach out to district18@council.nyc.gov if you would like more information.

IN THE NEWS

Opinion: Transit Equity Starts in the Bronx in City and State.

Excerpt: "If we are going to build these historic new train lines, then let's build new train lines that do new things to prioritize Bronxites' quality of life."



STAY CONNECTED

To find out more about upcoming events visit <https://council.nyc.gov/district-18/> to sign up for our monthly newsletter or follow our office on social media [@CMAMandaFarias](https://twitter.com/CMAMandaFarias) on all platforms.

CUNY Citizenship Now Free Legal Clinics are available in our office every Thursday by appointment only. Please call **646-664-9400** to make an appointment prior to Thursday.

SEEN IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 18

Dear Neighbor,

My name is Amanda Farías and I am your local City Council Member. I have been given the honor of a lifetime to be the first person born and raised in this community to represent us in the New York City Council. In this newsletter you will find updates from City Hall, our community, and any upcoming events. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Our district office is open and taking in-person meetings by appointment only. Please call us at 718-792-1140 to schedule a meeting with a member of our team.

In Community,

Amanda Farías
Council Member, District 18

Council Member Farías has been hard at work solving many constituent issues. In our first few months, the office has closed over 76% of our community's cases and is working on solving complaints around quality-of-life issues like lack of heat, rodent infestation, bettering our infrastructure, and accessing affordable housing. Council Member Farías is fighting for our neighbors every day at City Hall and is working to make real investments in Council District 18.

We started the year by jumping into action with all of our neighbors to support Twin Parks by collecting thousands of items to distribute. From diapers to hygienic items to clothes – our community showed up for our Bronx neighbors! Council Member Farías worked with local community partners, like the Castle Hill YMCA, to help collect and distribute resources to families. More recently, we've had fires in our own community and have continued to distribute items to the families affected.



CM Farías with NYC Emergency Management and FDNY discussing the fire on Archer St.



CM Farías and Executive Director of the Castle Hill YMCA, Sharlene Brown, dropping off donations for Twin Parks fire.



CITY HALL IN YOUR CORNER

Council Member Farías has been appointed Chair of the Committee on Economic Development, and appointed to the following:

- Committee on Finance
- Committee on Transportation
- Committee on Sanitation
- Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection
- Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations
- Twin Parks Citywide Task Force on Fire Prevention

As the first woman to Chair the Committee on Economic Development, Council Member Farías will have the opportunity to play a key role in NYC's economic recovery. Through legislation and oversight, she will oversee our city's economic development, small business projects and grants, job creation supporting hard-working families, tourism, and our city's food policy and procurement. Council Member Farías is looking forward to bringing her community-first perspective to hearings and her legislative priorities.



Council Member Amanda Farías was also elected by her colleagues to serve as the Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus. There has never been a more important time than now to highlight women's work and collaboration, and to show that every issue is a women's issue.

Legislative Highlight: A brief overview of some of the bills that the Council Member has co-sponsored, introduced, or signed on to.

Council Member Farías is excited to support Mayor Eric Adams' initiative to create 100,000 more jobs through Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and co-signed a letter from Attorney General Letitia James to investigate Con Edison's high fluctuating bill prices.

Council Member Farías co-sponsored bills:

- **Int 56:** Establishing a nightlife opioid antagonist program.
- **Int 55:** Creating a separate 311 category for COVID-19 testing site complaints.
- **Int 04:** Prohibiting the sale of guinea pigs as pets.
- **Int 02:** Dismissing summons alleging violations of executive orders in connection with COVID-19 and the refund of monetary penalties paid in connection with such violations for small businesses and restaurants during the pandemic.
- **Int 01:** Suspending alternate side street parking rules and parking meter rules during and after snowfalls.
- **Res No. 25:** Calling on the NYS legislature to pass the expansion eligibility for victims and survivors of crime to access victim compensation funds.
- **Res No. 20:** Calling on the NYS legislature to pass The New Deal for CUNY waiving all tuition and creating staff-to-student ratios that increase student success.
- **Res No. 65:** Calling on the NYS legislature to restore Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) eligibility for those currently in prison.

SPONSORED: Castle Hill Business Improvement District authorizing the establishment of the Castle Hill BID in our district.

PRIORITIZING EDUCATION

Council Member Farías has met with over a quarter of our schools and has been absolutely blown away by the incredible work the teachers and administration have done to adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is amazing how our students continue to persevere and dedicate themselves to their education.



CM Farías with students at PS 119x after school program.



CM Farías with high school seniors at Equality Charter High School.

FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY



CM Amanda Farías distributed halal meals and PPE on Starling Avenue.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



CM Farías honoring community leaders at Sotomayor Community Center.

CELEBRATING DOMINICAN HERITAGE



CM Farías honoring La Cocina de Yala and Golden Mango Supermarket.

CELEBRATING MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY ON STARLING AVENUE



CM Farías with AM Reyes and Bangladesh Academy for Fine Arts celebrating International Mother Language Day.

SUPPORTING OUR PUBLIC HEALTH



Our office distributed 300+ at-home Covid-19 tests, and 12,000+ masks in Castle Hill, Shorehaven, and Parkchester.