



NEWS FROM COUNCIL MEMBER

SUMMER 2019

FARAH N. LOUIS

DEAR NEIGHBOR,

The New York City Council, under the leadership of Speaker Corey Johnson, works closely to ensure our government works for you. As the newest member of this progressive legislative body and the Council's Committee on Finance, I was proud to help secure incredible wins for our community during the final budget negotiation process.

The City's \$92.8 billion budget for fiscal year 2020 was a historic investment in our schools, libraries, parks, and communities as a whole that will forever transform the lives of all New Yorkers.

As a staunch advocate for educational equity and a longtime supporter of our educators, I am proud that this budget marks the culmination of early childhood educators' years-long fight for wage parity. It also includes \$6 million in funding for breakfast in classrooms to feed the one in four children living in hunger-affected households (Read more of the budget highlights on page 3).

The City of New York is home to a growing, diverse population with ever-changing needs such as education, housing, healthcare, economic development, and sustainability. I am committed to addressing the priorities of my constituents and providing resources wherever needed.

I look forward to serving you in the City Council and sharing more updates and information that will improve the quality of life in our district and throughout the City of New York.

Sincerely,

Farah N. Louis, District 45

MEET YOUR NEW COUNCIL MEMBER



Farah Louis is a first generation Haitian-American and Brooklynite whose upbringing in an immigrant and pro-union household propelled her into advocacy, community organizing, and ultimately a career in public service.

Louis is an experienced leader in the City Council, where she began as the Director of Community Outreach for her predecessor, ultimately becoming the Deputy Chief of Staff and Budget Director. Her work in social justice, immigrants' and workers' rights, gender equity, and women's empowerment is a testament to her deep-rooted belief in community engagement and empowerment.

Council Member Farah Louis plans to continue her work advocating for educational resources, promoting affordable housing, curbing tenant displacement and preserving home ownership. In partnership with business improvement districts and merchant associations, economic development will be bolstered to support small businesses. As neighbors, we must work hand in hand to protect our community's quality of life against two of its biggest threats—gun violence and limited access to quality healthcare.

She is a member of the following committees:

- Committee on Civil Service and Labor
- Committee on Economic Development
- Committee on Education
- Committee on Finance
- Committee on Housing and Buildings
- Committee on Youth Services
- Committee on the Justice System

She is also a member of the Black, Latino/a, and Asian Caucus (BLAC) and the Women's Caucus.

GENDER EQUITY

Res 0978: Resolution calling upon Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019

- This bill calls on the Federal government to reauthorize this life-saving piece of legislation. I am hopeful that the reauthorization of this Act will only lead to further efforts to prevent violent gender-based crime through justice reform, education for the public, and grants that provide invaluable resources to survivors through initiatives like NYC's Family Justice Centers.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Int. 1612: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting discrimination in owner-occupied rental housing accommodations

- The bill would prohibit landlords of such rentals (ex: Airbnb hosts) from discriminating against potential renters on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, uniformed services, marital status, partnership status, alienage, or citizenship status.

Int. 487: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to creating comprehensive reporting and oversight of NYPD surveillance technologies

- This bill will require NYPD to issue a surveillance impact and use policy about surveillance technologies. The policy would include information on surveillance technologies such as the description and capabilities, rules, processes and guidelines, and any safeguards and security measures designed to protect the information collected. Upon publication of the draft surveillance impact and use policy, the public shall have a period of time to submit comments to be added to the report.

Int. 1556: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to providing security for houses of religious worship

- Under the current President's divisive rhetoric, hate crimes against religious minorities have become an ever-pressing issue in our communities. Our government has a responsibility to keep our citizenry safe, especially if its members are under attack for their beliefs, backgrounds, and identities. This bill will allow for houses of worship within the city to hire an armed security guard, submit for reimbursement, and have the City reimburse the expense.

HOUSING AND TENANT RIGHTS

Int. 1499: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the provision of tenant screening reports

- This bill will prohibit any owners from charging a prospective tenant a fee to obtain a screening report unless the unit is vacant and ready. It also requires the owner to provide the tenant with the screening report after collecting the fee, even if a lease isn't signed. Lastly, this bill will require the Department of Consumer Affairs to assess the feasibility of implementing its own uniform, city-wide tenant screening report system.

Ints. 1431, 1424, 1433: Laws to amend the administrative code to require the return of a security deposit within 14 days, to limit a rental security deposit to one month of rent, and to provide the option to pay a rental deposit in six equal installments, respectively

- **1431:** This bill ensures that any commercial or residential landlord will return the security deposit, less any lawful deductions, to the tenant within 14 days of the end of the lease.
- **1424:** With this bill, individual landlords, corporations, or entities will only be allowed to collect a security deposit equal to one month's rent.
- **1433:** This bill will allow tenants to pay security deposits in six equal installments to be added to the first six rental payments, respectively.

Int. 1432: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to transparency in residential rental application fees

- This bill would require apartment brokers to provide a clear, itemized list of how any application fees collected prior to securing the apartment will be spent. It also establishes a \$150 civil penalty if any brokers collect fees without making the required disclosure.

Int 1423: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to limiting the fees charged in a rental real estate transaction

- This bill prohibits individuals from charging tenants or prospective tenants more than one-month's rent in any residential real estate transaction.

ONGOING PROJECTS



- Partnered with **Assembly Member Helene Weinstein** to mobilize the **Department of Sanitation (DSNY)** and other entities to clean up Farragut Road corridor, which was affected by illegal dumping.
- Partnered with **Council Member Chaim Deutsch** to initiate a traffic study by the **Department of Transportation (DOT)** to reduce traffic congestion and implement traffic safety measures on Nostrand Avenue and Kings Highway.
- Sponsored a Lien Sale Prevention Clinic at **St. Augustine's Episcopal Church** that allowed homeowners to speak with financial counselors from the Department of Finance (DOF), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and Housing & Preservation Development (HPD) to create a plan to resolve arrears and prevent the sale of liens on their homes.



BUDGET CORNER



Within her first 30 days, Council Member Louis joined her colleagues in adopting and passing a progressive 2020 Fiscal Year Budget, a collaborative investment in our city to strengthen core city services, implement salary parity for early childhood educators and public defenders, and fund priorities for libraries, summer youth programs, and trash collection.

New Yorkers will see unprecedented investments in:

- **Libraries:** over **\$359M** in expense funding
- **Parks:** over **\$508M** in expense funding plus an additional **\$150M** in capital funding for underserved parks
- **Schools:** **\$23.4B** of the expense budget
 - Over 200 more social workers for public schools
- **Children's Services:** **\$3B** in expense funding
- **Mental Health Services:** **\$1.4B** in expense funding
- **Sanitation:** **\$4.4M** toward more frequent garbage collection

CONSTITUENT SERVICES



Council Member Farah Louis' office is a liaison between city government agencies and constituents dealing with quality of life matters, social services, and small business issues. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9:30AM-5:00PM to handle all constituent services matters.

Council Member Farah Louis is proud to partner with CUNY Citizenship Now, Housing Court Answers, Flatbush Development Corporation and Neighborhood Housing Services to provide FREE immigration and tenant advocacy services to the community **by appointment only** in the district office.

Citizenship and Immigration Assistance:
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00AM-4:00PM

Tenant Assistance: 10:00AM-4:00PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Flatbush Junction Youth Market/Grow NYC
Saturdays (Now through November 23, 2019)

8:30AM - 2:00PM

Flatbush Avenue and Nostrand Avenue

Summer Movies in the Park

July 23 @ Tilden Park

8:45PM: **The Lego Movie**

August 1 @ Wyckoff-Fidler Park

8:30PM: **How to Train Your Dragon**

August 22 @ Wyckoff-Fidler Park

8:30PM: **Avengers: End Game**

Housing Court Answers Workshop (Location TBD)

- **8/20- Rent Stabilized Laws**
- **9/17 Housing Court Overview**
- **10/1 How to Get Repairs**

For all event updates and notices, call (718) 629-2900. You can also sign up for our e-newsletter via District45@council.nyc.gov or visit our website.