

West Indian Senior Labor Day Concert

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our seniors whose sacrifices have paved the way for future generations to pursue their dreams without limitation. This concert was a token of our appreciation for the matriarchs and patriarchs upon whose shoulders we stand today.



Pakistan Independence Day



Council Member Louis joins in celebration of Pakistan's independence six months after the unveiling of Muhammad Ali Jinnah Way along Coney Island Avenue from Avenue C to Avenue H. Jinnah is renowned as the founder of Modern Pakistan and now his legacy is memorialized in Brooklyn's Little Pakistan.

New York City Council • 250 Broadway • 30th Floor • New York, NY 10007



News from Council Member

Summer 2020

Farah N. Louis

45th Council District, Brooklyn
1434 Flatbush Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11210
Tel: (718) 629-2900

Website: council.nyc.gov/district-45/
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @CMFarahLouis

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
New York City
Council
10007

Constituent Services are available **Monday through Friday, 9AM to 5PM**, and late hours from **5PM to 7PM every first and third Wednesday of the month**.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday, we provide **FREE Immigration Services** in our district office in collaboration with CUNY Citizenship Now!

Council Member Louis is proud to partner with Housing Court Answers, Flatbush Development Corporation (FDC), NHS Brooklyn, IMPACCT Brooklyn, and LiveOnNY to provide **FREE housing application assistance** to the community by appointment in the district office.

News from Council Member

Summer 2020

Farah N. Louis

Dear Neighbors,

As I reflect upon my first year in public office, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve and represent my lifelong community—the unparalleled District 45.

Because of our collective unity, we have made tremendous progress to end the inequities and injustices in the City of New York. I am proud of our accomplishments thus far, but the work must continue to close the gender and racial gaps that threaten to undermine who we are as OneNYC.

Being the voice of the people, championing the issues that matter most to our families and seniors, is a responsibility that I cherish and strive everyday to excel. I am excited to share some of the memorable moments from my freshman year as a Member of the New York City Council, our hard-fought victories, and legislative work in City Hall.

I want to thank you for your partnership and support during this transformative year. Our foundation is solid, let us continue to build upon this momentum and create a better tomorrow for future generations.

Sincerely,

Farah N. Louis
Council Member, District 45

COVID-19 Kindness

As a community, we suffered greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the high density population of African American and elderly constituents - the hardest hit by this illness. Residents within zip codes 11203 and 11226 had the highest rates of infection and hospitalizations throughout the district, resulting in many losses in our community, but together we are getting through these challenging times.

Council Member Louis organized the following during the COVID Pandemic:

- Secured and delivered meals to healthcare workers at area hospitals
- Secured PPEs for essential workers in the district
- Advocated for the designation of faith leaders who provide crisis intervention and food provisioning services as essential workers
- Conducted wellness check-ins with seniors, including distributing hot meals and immune booster shots.
- Partnered with state and federal elected officials to distribute over 3,000 masks door-to-door at Flatbush Gardens and welcomed a mobile healthcare unit on-site
- Fought for the first COVID-19 testing site in Flatbush, a drive-thru location in the Sears parking lot and secured a second location on Coney Island Avenue
- Connected neighborhood pantries with city agencies for nutritious food and PPE
- Helped distribute food for Grab-and-Go meals at public schools
- Pushed for immediate delivery of iPad devices to District 45 students for remote learning
- Ensured school crossing guards would remain on payroll despite closures
- Urged NYS Governor to cease non-essential construction and development in District 45
- Led a letter to NYS Governor advocating for expectant mothers to have access to doulas and midwives during childbirth in addition to the already mandated asymptomatic partner



Council Member Louis Opens New District Office

For a decade, the district office was located in a part of our community that was not centralized or transit-friendly. Council Member Louis marked the start of a new year and decade by opening a new district office located near the Flatbush Junction section of Brooklyn where it is more accessible for **ALL** constituents from **ALL** parts of the district. The new space expands the staff's capacity to provide much-needed services to our community!

Louis And Gibson Elected Co-Chairs Of Women's Caucus

In a unanimous vote, New York City Council Members Farah N. Louis and Vanessa L. Gibson were elected as co-chairs of the Women's Caucus on the cusp of Women's HERstory Month.

The Brooklyn and Bronx representatives will lead the twelve-member Caucus for a two-year term, a period during which they will champion gender equity and inclusion while building on the extraordinary legacy of previous women trailblazers.

During her first year in office, Council Member Louis has spearheaded legislation to protect survivors of domestic violence; close the food insecurity gap; expand access to nonprofit services, education, reproductive rights, and healthcare.



Bright Minds Leads To Bright Futures

Each year, as summer draws to a close, teachers, parents, and students alike all begin their back to school preparations. After galvanizing the community to donate school supplies to the most vulnerable, Council Member Louis in conjunction with Council Member Chaim Deutsch and Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte distributed hundreds of book bags, notebooks, pens, and pencils to empower every student for a successful year.



Tilden Campus Newly Renovated Library Ribbon-Cutting



Samuel J. Tilden Educational Complex students finally have a library. Through \$300,000 in NYC Council funding, the library is staffed by a librarian and equipped with a college and career center; new bookshelves and furniture, classrooms doors, floor tiles, and a fresh coat of paint.

Breaking Ground For A New Community Playground

Students of P.S. 152/315 designed a new community playground, which will be unveiled later than scheduled due to COVID-19. This project was among the first funded by Council Member Louis, through Cycle 6 of the Participatory Budgeting process, in addition to VITAL Brooklyn funding provided by Assemblymember Bichotte, totaling more than half a million dollars.



Preserving Housing Affordability For District 45 Tenants

During her first 100 days in office, Council Member Louis held a three-part series of housing forums, in partnership with several housing advocates, on the new pro-tenant reforms known as the Housing Stability and Tenants Protection Act of 2019 enacted in Albany.

She also hosted a community housing forum where renters, homeowners, veterans, and seniors learned about their rights, opportunities to save money, and how to prevent fraud with the help of several City agencies and community-based organizations.



NYC Worst Landlords Tour

Council Member Louis, a member of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, joined Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams for a tour of several properties in District 45 mismanaged by Jason Korn, who was named **New York City's Worst Landlord**, with over 1,200 open violations. Immediately following the tour, she called for an oversight hearing on the effectiveness of the **Alternative Enforcement Program**, which was intended to ensure apartment buildings with open violations take immediate corrective measures and are regularly inspected.

CM Louis Joins NYS Attorney General James For Deed Theft Prevention Campaign Launch

With deed theft on the rise, Council Member Louis joined NYS Attorney General Letitia James to educate homeowners on how to protect their private property. Council Member Louis went door to door in Flatbush with Community Board 17 Chair Aaron Ampaw to help raise awareness.

Protecting District 45 Homes From Lien Sale

Every year, the City's Department of Finance sells tax liens or unpaid debts such as property taxes and water bills. Council Member Louis, in partnership with her colleagues in government and City agencies, held several community outreach sessions to help homeowners settle their debts or arrange a payment plan without incurring additional interest and fees.

Addressing NYPD Excessive Force

Council Member Louis stood in solidarity with the family members of Dwayne Jeune after he was shot and killed by police. Since this injustice, she has advocated for community-based solutions to the NYPD's current responses in cases involving emotionally disturbed persons to prevent this tragedy from reoccurring. Every call to NYPD for help relevant to mental health concerns deserve meaningful support, not a death sentence.

Take A Stand Against Domestic Violence

In response to the more than 4,200 reports of intimate partner domestic incidents in District 45, Council Member Louis held her Annual Take A Stand Tour to educate and empower survivors of gender-based violence and their families. The event was held in partnership with Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, the Haitian-American Community Coalition, Inc., the Bridge Multicultural Advocacy Project, and the 63rd Precinct. Participants learned how to identify signs of abuse, connect survivors to supportive services as well as resources, and how to protect oneself against potential threats or attacks.



No Hate. No Fear. Solidarity March

Religious freedom and cultural diversity is what makes this city distinct and vibrant. We cannot allow anyone to change or dictate who we are. The solidarity march was a message of unity that must echo throughout our city and state- we stand in solidarity today and every day against hate and bigotry.



Policy & Legislative Corner



This legislative snapshot provides a brief overview of some of the bills that Council Member Louis has introduced, passed, and/or was later enacted. She has also been a prime co-sponsor of several bills that ensure our city is inclusive and fair for all.

INTRO 1928 would require the NYPD to compile, send, and post a yearly missing persons report, disaggregated by race, age, gender, police precinct, percent of cases solved, and proportion of which cases involved human trafficking.

INTRO 1929 would create a public alert system to be used in missing persons cases where the person is believed to be in imminent danger.

INTRO 1784 would require the Mayor to establish a permanent Office of Not-For-Profit Services to assist and be a resource to not-for-profit organizations in New York City.

INTRO 1795 would amend the definition of "victim of domestic violence" under the NYC Human Rights Law to recognize economic oppression as a form of domestic violence and extend existing protections.

INTRO 0864 would require the Health Department to conduct thorough, building-wide inspections if a resident child has an elevated blood lead level, while also inspecting the child's daycare, preschool, or school and any play-ground, park, or area with soil the child has visited.

INTRO 1633 would require the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to relocate tenants who lost their homes due to a fire or other emergency situation in the same, or immediately adjacent community district from where the fire or emergency situation occurred upon request.

INTRO 1321 would require any developer receiving at least \$1,000,000 in City funding to pay building service employees the prevailing wage.

INTRO 1104/INTRO 1529 would expand tenants' right to free counsel in housing matters, and to ensure they are aware of these rights when attending eviction proceedings.

INTRO 1785/ INTRO 1810 would extend healthcare coverage to surviving family members of certain municipal employees who have died as a result of a 9/11-related illness or injury.

INTRO 1805 would require the Department of Small Business Services to create a commercial landlord watch list, which would include any commercial landlord who, within the past 10 years, has been found by a court to have engaged in commercial tenant harassment.

RESO 1025 asks the State to opt into a SNAP program that will allow certain vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, homeless, and disabled, to use their benefits toward hot and pre-prepared meals.

RESO 1024 asks the State to opt into a SNAP program that will allow college students to use their school hours toward employment requirements.

RESO 1061 calls on the State Legislature to pass A.2381/S.5471, which would reimburse domestic violence shelters in the event they have to place a single person in a double-occupancy room, in hopes of ensuring single survivors will not be turned away.

RESO 0978 calls upon Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019, which ensures federal funding for counseling, housing, reproductive care, and more for survivors of domestic violence.