Civic engagement is such an integral part of how local residents can get involved in shaping our city’s future. Together, we achieved a historic 61.9 percent census self-response rate in New York City. In District 45, we galvanized our neighbors to get counted and closed the gap between 2010 and 2020 by nearly 10 percent to secure federal funding for critical services such as education, healthcare, and transportation. Council Member Louis partners with several elected officials, the NYC Census 2020, the Flatbush Junction BID, and community organizations for 2020 Census outreach. With the local and citywide elections scheduled for 2021, we met with constituents along our commercial corridors to encourage voter registration and participation.

Dear Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family are safe and in good health. After a challenging year, we hope that 2021 will be full of promise and prosperity.

Within the first week of the new year, the New York City Council resumed its legislative session. Following a vote, I was appointed as Chair of the Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and Addictions. I am proud to serve in this new capacity, which is in addition to my current leadership roles as Co-Chair of the Women’s Caucus and Vice Co-Chair of the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus.

I look forward to our transition from response to recovery as we approach the one-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic concurrently with the citywide vaccine rollout. For months, I led community-based organizations, faith leaders, local residents and elected officials in the fight for critical resources that would help District 45 overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we opened more testing sites, food pantries, distributed PPEs, and hand sanitizers to keep each other safe. We stood in solidarity with our frontline and essential workers, pushed for residential and commercial tenant protections while supporting small businesses.

When faced with crisis after crisis, we stood firm to ensure fairness in our schools, healthcare institutions, the workplace, and criminal justice system. Our city and state must accelerate their efforts to end racial and gender disparities in our society that have gone overlooked for far too long. Let us continue to work collaboratively to effect change for the next generation.

Be safe, be well. Please continue to follow the recommended precautions such as staying home if you are sick, except seeking medical care when prompted; washing your hands frequently; wearing masks, and practicing social distancing.

Sincerely,

Farah N. Louis
Council Member, District 45

Expanding Food Access During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Amidst an unprecedented period in our nation’s history when economic and food insecurity is at an all-time high, Council Member Louis worked with the city’s Office of the Food Czar to quadruple the number of food pantries in District 45 while expanding access to fresh produce.

Constituent Services are available virtually Monday through Friday, 9AM to 5PM.

Council Member Louis is proud to partner with Flatbush Development Corporation (FDC), NHS Brooklyn, IMPACCT Brooklyn, and LiveOnNY to provide FREE virtual housing application assistance.

We also offer FREE Immigration Services virtually in collaboration with CUNY Citizenship Now!
Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and limited opportunities to practice or compete, these athletes overcame those challenges to become the new champions. Through organizations such as Foster Park Sports, our youth receive the support needed to succeed on and off the court.

Amid the protests for police accountability, racial equality, and justice are women who look like us, standing up for our husbands, fathers, and sons. Now we must also speak up and speak out for ourselves. Council Member Louis joins two young men in painting the Black Lives Matter mural on the roadway, bordered by the Brooklyn Municipal Building and Brooklyn Borough Hall.

The first-ever two-day Virtual Education Symposium hosted by the Brooklyn Black Elected Officials Coalition (BBEOC) was a complete success. As the Education and Digital Divide Committee Co-Chair, Council Member Louis brought public school students, parents, and educators of color to discuss our educational system’s state in the age of remote learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

We held our first annual cel-iberation rally to commemorate Juneteenth as a pivotal day in American and Black history. People of all ages joined us on the steps of Brooklyn Public Library to reflect on our past, cel- ebrate our present, and build towards our future.

Every day, the sound of laughter and vibrant energy of local youth fill the community playground designed by the students of P.S. 152/315, which is now open to the public. Council Member Louis, who helped fund the transformation of the asphalt schoolyard into a new green space, greeted families who were eager to explore their new amenities.

The 52-unit Bishop Philius and Helene Nicolas Senior Residence, located at 1488 New York Avenue in Flatbush, is expected to welcome its new senior tenants in spring 2021.

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