

Census and Voter Education



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.

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News from Council Member

Winter 2020-2021

Farah N. Louis

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Announcements

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!**



News from Council Member

Winter 2020-2021

Farah N. Louis

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



Amid 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.



More than 1.5 million New Yorkers are food insecure, but that number has likely increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Council Member Louis joined houses of worship, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses on the frontlines to feed our community.

Social Justice and Youth Empowerment



Amid the protests for police accountability, racial equality, and injustice 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-liberation 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, celebrate our present, and build towards our future.

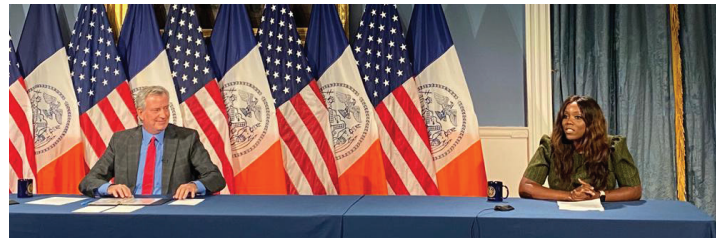


Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and limited opportunities to practice or compete, these athletes overcame those challenges to become the new champions. Through organizations such as Foster Park Sports, our youth receive the support needed to succeed on and off the court.



Faith leaders come together to occupy the corners, stop the shootings, and save lives. Gun violence has to end; too many families have been devastated by the loss of loved ones.

Capital, Landmarks & Beautification Projects



Council Member Louis joins Mayor Bill de Blasio to announce a new recreation center at Nostrand Playground in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn. She plans to build upon the framework conceptualized by her predecessor, former Council Member and current Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams, to carry it across the finish line together.

With Council Member Louis' support, who helped galvanize residents into action, the East 25th Street Historic District became the first-ever designation by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission East Flatbush to protect their homes from developers and preserve the architectural history.



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.



Council Member Louis coordinates an interagency walk-through and massive cleanup of Farragut Road between Kings Highway and Utica Avenue. After months-long discussions to devise long-term solutions to the illegal disposal of household and business trash along the Farragut Road corridor, the departments of Sanitation and Buildings and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority saw firsthand the magnitude of the chronic problem. In collaboration with the agencies mentioned above and the Department of Finance, Council Member Louis located the property owner, allocated funds for regular maintenance of the area under the NYC Cleanup Initiative, and explored a more permanent solution.

COVID-19 PPE & Testing Response



Black and Brown New Yorkers have been the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic because we represent the majority of the frontline and essential workers while encountering racial disparities in healthcare. In partnership with the city and state administration, Council Member Louis established new COVID-19 testing sites in District 45 to combat the influx of new cases.

As our families' needs continue to evolve, schools have become a hub for learning, food access, and community resources. With economic and housing insecurity among the top priorities, Council Member Louis hopes to expand every school's capacity to provide supportive services such as free legal assistance for housing issues on-site through Resolution 1324.

The transition to remote learning was pivotal to keep students and educators safe but challenging due to the shortage of internet-enabled learning devices. Council Member Louis pushed the Department of Education to prioritize District 45 families and immediately deliver those devices while introducing legislation that champions education equity.



To stop the spread of COVID-19, our communities must have the tools to protect their families. Council Member Louis distributes free masks to residents at neighborhood playgrounds, commercial corridors, houses of worship, and food pantry sites.

Policy & Legislative Corner

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

INTRO 2005 requires the Department of Health and Mental Health to report on the mental health of New Yorkers during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

INTRO 2138 requires the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT), in consultation with the Department of Education (DOE) to purchase and distribute laptop computers, with built-in WiFi and open-source textbooks and educational materials, to all NYC public school students.

INTRO 2179 amends the administrative code of the City of New York in relation to increasing access to data on maternal mortality and morbidity.

RESO 1324 calls on the New York City Department of Education to partner with nonprofit organizations to provide on-site pro bono legal assistance at schools to help students and their families with housing issues.

RESO 1374 calls upon the New York City Department of Education to establish a training program for parents in relation to remote learning.

RESO 1473 calls upon the New York City Department of Education to provide families of children with disabilities the necessary training and equipment to properly enable distance learning.

RESO 1474 calls upon the New York City Department of Education to station a distance learning specialist in each school district to provide critical local assistance with issues related to distance learning.

RESO 1483 calls on Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation that would prohibit property owners and loan service agencies from negatively impacting credit scores of businesses, property owners, or renters for nonpayment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESO 1484 calls on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, legislation that would add, at minimum, a six-month extension to the back end of a lease or mortgage that would not penalize or create a balloon payment to the arrears that were accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESO 1485 requesting the Governor to create a State-funded grant program to support undocumented business owners devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic.