FIGHT AGAINST PESTICIDE FACILITY & SEX OFFENDERS

Last year, Council Member Farah Louis joined several civic associations, community groups and neighbors to protest the removal of a halfway house for sex offenders and a dangerous pest control site planned for the district. Louis believes a residential community with private homes and daycare centers is not a suitable place for a halfway house and a pesticide facility that could impact the air we breathe and our quality of life. Council Member Louis stood with the residents of Brooklyn Community Board 18, in opposing this proposal and the City’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) who did not conduct extensive community outreach to address the public’s hesitancy.

RESTORATION OF RUGBY LIBRARY

Our beloved and much-missed Rugby Library on Utica Avenue re-opened with a brand-new look. The bustling branch was closed in March 2017 and underwent a $120.2 million dollar renovation – complete with 22,000 books and items, new shelving, seating and service areas, and an entire area for kids and teens. The venerable building, which dates to 1957 and is located two blocks from the childhood home of Jackie Robinson, has been restored and refurbished into a bright, modern space for reading, learning and personal and group study. The venerable building, which dates to 1957 and is located two blocks from the childhood home of Jackie Robinson, has been restored and refurbished into a bright, modern space for reading, learning and personal and group study.

FIRST AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT EXCLUSIVELY FOR SENIORS

Despite challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic halting construction statewide, we prevailed and unveiled the BFHN Senior Residence, an 88-unit affordable housing project exclusively for seniors. Council Member Louis continues to fight for affordable housing projects that will end the perpetual cycle of displacing poor families. We will end the perpetual cycle of displacing poor families. We will end the perpetual cycle of displacing poor families.

SUPPORTING NEIGHBORS DURING PASSOVER

During times of crisis, there are many ways we can help our neighbors and serve the community. Council Member Farah Louis partnered with community organizations such as Chasdei Lev, Flatbush Jewish Community Coalition (FJCC) and the Multicultural Bridge Project to provide essential services to the community. This community collaboration is a lifeline for our seniors to age in place.

DEAR NEIGHBOR,

It is a New Year, but our fight and commitment to providing you with a better and more prosperous year than we had last year remain my priority. We step into this New Year, knowing how we have every day since 2019, together hand in hand. We are here in 2022, more prepared for the fight ahead and better equipped to address our needs as a City and especially in our District.

Last year, the New York City Council worked tirelessly to pass a $98.7 billion budget for the Fiscal Year 2022. This historic spending plan offers New Yorkers critical and significant investments in quality-of-life services, education, and anti-violence initiatives while restoring many of the service cuts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here is a brief snapshot of initiatives my office was able to secure:

- Morris Heights Women’s Health Center in Flatbush;
- Saturday Night Basketball Program;
- Implementation of Community Schools in Middletown and East Flatbush;
- Restoration of the Horses/Sisters Thrive Wellness Program;
- Shirley Chisholm Recreation Center at Norristown Playground;
- Funding for new technology at schools in the 45th District;
- An increase in funding for Mental Health Services;
- Court Involved Youth services at schools in the 45th District;
- Funds for a Culinary Arts Kitchen at the Cultural Academy of Arts and Sciences at Tilden High School;

As Chair of the Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction Committee and as Co-Chair of the Women’s Caucus, I have fought for – and won – greater access to mental health services, maternal and reproductive health rights, and equal pay. As Co-Chair of the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus, I have championed cleaner streets, more affordable housing, senior services, Summer Youth Employment (SYEP), youth services, anti-violence initiatives, and other issues of critical importance to District 45.

OUR YEAR AHEAD IS HOPEFUL.

This year has already brought many changes and new beginnings. From a new mayoral administration to a new majority women City Council, shifts in leadership will be instrumental in our continued fight to advance racial justice, birth justice, and gender equity in honor of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Georgia Congressman John Lewis.

Our Fight is VIGOROUS.

The first week of the New Year, the New York City Council resumed its legislative session. We held our first charter meeting of the New Year and voted for our first-ever African-American Speaker of the New York City Council, Adrienne E. Adams. As we embark on a new administration and City Council, it will bring changes with committee assignments and chairmanships. I will keep constituents informed on my committee assignments in the following newsletter.

As a legislative body, the City Council will continue to enact measures that promote economic, food, and housing security while ensuring fairness in our schools, healthcare institutions, and workplaces. Our city and state officials must accelerate their efforts to end racial and gender disparities in COVID-19 prevention and treatment, mental health support services, and maternal care. This fight is paramount. I will not stop until all reasonable accommodations and resources are provided city-wide, especially in our home base, District 45.

I look forward to our continued response to recovery as we fight the rise of the Omicron virus that is impacting our community very hard. We must encourage our neighbors to get vaccinated and make every effort to help end this pandemic.

As always, please reach out to our office for anything. We are always here for you, serving your needs first, speaking truth to power, and establishing your voice throughout the community at large and throughout NYC.

Be safe, be well.

Sincerely,

Farah N. Louis, Council Member. District 45

Council Member Farah Louis is dedicated to our young scholars earning a robust education. This is not a policy point to pull in voters but a commitment to building a better NYC. To Louis, this important 3-K-expansion is preparing our children for a post-modern society and helps get our families back to work. Council Member Louis believes 3-K allows our students to fall in love with learning, growing and community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The applications for Fiscal Year 2023 Discretionary and Capital Funding for Non-City Organizations are available online at: https://council.nyc.gov/budget/

Constituent Services are available Monday through Friday, 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

Council Member Louis is proud to partner with Housing Court Answers, Flatbush Development Corporation (FDC), IMPACT Brooklyn, and LiveOnNY to provide FREE in-person and virtual SNAP, SCRIE, DRIE and housing application assistance by appointment.

We also offer FREE Immigration Services in-person and virtually in collaboration with CUNY Citizenship Now! by appointment.

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NEWS FROM NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WINTER 2022

NEWS FOR NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WINTER 2022

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City experienced an increase in household garbage produced by New Yorkers under lockdown and the draconian cuts by the de Blasio administration. $306 million to be exact, led to a citywide pile-up of garbage in our local neighborhoods. Taking matters into her own hands, Council Member Farah N. Louis launch a district-wide Clean Up Initiative to remove litter and beautify the community in partnership with DSNY, Elite Learners, Flatlands Flats Civic Group, Utica to Flatbush, and local volunteers to help maintain the districts beauty by keeping it cleaned.

The community in partnership with DSNY, Elite Learners, Flatlands launch a district-wide Clean Up Initiative to remove litter and beautify the exact, led to a citywide pile-up of garbage in our local neighborhoods. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City experienced an increase in household garbage produced by New Yorkers under lockdown and the draconian cuts by the de Blasio administration. $306 million to be exact, led to a citywide pile-up of garbage in our local neighborhoods. Taking matters into her own hands, Council Member Farah N. Louis launch a district-wide Clean Up Initiative to remove litter and beautify the community in partnership with DSNY, Elite Learners, Flatlands Flats Civic Group, Utica to Flatbush, and local volunteers to help maintain the districts beauty by keeping it cleaned.

Council Member Farah Louis joined former Mayor Bill de Blasio, NYC Parks Commissioner Gabriela Fialkoff, Community Board 17 members and colleagues in government during City Hall in Your Borough at Nostrand Playground in the East Flatbush. The former Mayor completed one of his final tasks and presented a $141 million check toward the construction of the long-anticipated Shirley Chisholm Recreation center. The future state-of-the-art recreation center will include multipurpose rooms, a gymnasium, walking track, indoor swimming pool, fitness and cardio rooms, plus a teaching kitchen. The Center will also house a business and tech lab named in honor of Dr. Roy A. Hastick Sr. Hastick was a visionary and integral in promoting immigrant, minority, and women-owned businesses. Council Member Louis fought hard for a space in the district to call our own. A place to promote the health and wellbeing of local families – particularly, a center for our youth and seniors.

**LEGISLATION**

Our 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 3794**: Establishing an office of not-for-profit organization services.
- **INTRO 2536**: Study of the health impacts from gas stoves.
- **INTRO 2248**: requiring the civil complaint review board to conduct an investigation of any injury or death caused by police action.
- **INTRO 0050**: A Local Law to amend the New York city charter in relation to establishing an office for neighborhood safety and the prevention of gun violence.
- **INTRO 0146**: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the department of small businesses services to assess the state of storefront businesses.
- **INTRO 2349**: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to reporting on housing lottery outcomes.
- **INTRO 0140**: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the department of correction to utilize doula services.
- **INTRO 2345**: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to exemptions from the sale of tax liens.
- **INTRO 0339**: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to protections for domestic workers under the human rights law.
- **RESO 1469**: Calling on the Governor to create a State funded grant program to support undocumented business owners devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **RESO 1480**: calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign, legislation authorizing and the State Legislature to introduce and pass, legislation that would create a property tax exemption for property owners who undertake safe basement apartment conversions.
- **RESO 1721**: calling upon the New York State Legislature to introduce and pass, and the Governor to sign, legislation that would create a property tax exemption for property owners who undertake safe basement apartment conversions.
- **RESO 1725**: calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass the Momnibus Act of 2021.

**MAYOR ALLOCATES $141M FOR SHIRLEY CHISHOLM RECREATION CENTER**

After two years of public hearing procedures and numerous meetings, Council Member Louis joined the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission and residents of the East 25th Street Block association to unveil the newly installed Historic District Marker to commemorate the East 25th Street Historic District designation. A hard-fought victory in her first term for the first-ever landmarked neighborhood in East Flatbush to protect homes from predatory developers and preserve the irreplaceable architectural history for future generations to cherish.

**DISTRICT 45 CLEANUP INITIATIVE**

Council Member Farah Louis knows what it means to be Black in America and welcomed celebrating the freedom of Black Americans with Juneteenth and the unveiling of the George Floyd Statue at the Flatbush Junction. Louis understands racial injustice is a fight we take in the streets, the courts, the schools, the media and the chambers of government and she educates youth on these dynamics to empower them to keep fighting for change.

**COMBATING FOOD & VACCINE INSECURITY**

From frontline workers to underserved communities to Black/ Brown New Yorkers, collectively we have fought and endured the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with the City and State officials, Council Member Farah Louis established a new COVID-19 vaccine and testing site in the heart of Flatbush at the Flatbush YMCA to combat the spread of COVID-19. The temporary site provides the necessary tools to protect families and combat the influx of new cases. In addition, to battle the ongoing crisis of food insecurity, Council Member opened 30+ pantries in the district while distributing free masks to residents at neighborhood