

DEVELOPING & INVESTING IN COMMUNITY SPACES

First Recreation Center in District 45 & Central Brooklyn

Council Member Louis Successfully Secures Funding and and Breaks Ground on \$141 Million Shirley Chisholm Recreation Center

This year, I had the privilege of breaking ground for the Shirley Chisholm Recreation Center, a long-overdue and much-needed investment in the betterment of our community. I envisioned a legacy project that included a state-of-the-art and cutting-edge recreation space that this community has long deserved - a milestone that could not have been achieved without honoring the tireless efforts of Dr. Roy Hastick and paying tribute to the memory of Kamani Gray, whose legacy lives on in this initiative. The Shirley Chisholm Recreation Center offers a range of amenities, including a green roof, a pool, a walking track, a cooking kitchen, and a fitness center. These additions not only enhance the aesthetics of our public spaces but also ensure that we have a safe and welcoming environment for our youth to thrive. This project stands as a testament to the power of our community coming together, driven by the shared vision of creating a better, more vibrant East Flatbush for generations to come.



Monumental Revitalization of Sunners Playground
Council Member Louis Restores Community Play Space for Flatlands Children

This summer, I proudly joined Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Martin Maher in cutting the ribbon on the newly renovated Sunners Playground, a vital community space that was transformed for everyone to enjoy. This revitalization project was made possible through my commitment of \$1,550,000 in capital funding. The upgrades to Sunners Playground are nothing short of remarkable, with brand new seating areas, swings, a refreshing water play area to beat the summer heat, accessible drinking fountains, and a host of other modern amenities to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for our community members of all ages to come together and make lasting memories.



Historic Partnership with Brooklyn Nets to Rebuild Fox Playground
Council Member Louis Celebrates Impactful Revitalization of Community Resource

This fall, I joined NYC Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue, in collaboration with Brooklyn Nets and New York Liberty owner and founder of the Social Justice Fund, Clara Wu Tsai to celebrate the transformation of the Fox Playground basketball courts. The renovated basketball courts have been upgraded with new rims and backboards, improved playing surfaces, and vibrant murals, beautifying the spaces and creating a safe and inviting environment for youth recreation. This initiative underscores the commitment of the Brooklyn Nets, New York Liberty, and the New York City Council to support neighborhoods, like Flatlands, and provide state-of-the-art facilities that promote active and inclusive recreational opportunities.



EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS TOWARDS EDUCATION & YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Funding For Schools

At the beginning of this school year, I was honored to present a \$1.1 million check to the Brooklyn Science and Engineering Academy for the Kade Lewin Fitness Center, a substantial investment in the health, well-being, and physical education of our future leaders within the school.



This was a major collaborative effort in partnership with the Mayor and the Speaker, and I look forward to seeing this developed within the school and seeing our scholars benefit from this new resource.

Youth Programs

This year, I funded the Citywide Teen Entrepreneurship Program which empowers young entrepreneurs of color from marginalized communities to foster creativity and innovation, providing opportunities as a gateway to success. I continue to partner with Partners Uplifting Our Daughters and Sons to support this Citywide Teen Entrepreneurship Program and am optimistic about the beneficial impact these young entrepreneurs will have in our city and the global economy. I also welcomed America's youngest mayor, Jaylen Smith, to Brooklyn in partnership with the CUNY Haitian Studies Institute's Young Scholars Civics Institute, emphasizing our commitment to nurturing future leaders and promoting education and civic engagement.



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NEWS FROM NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

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Summer Sports Programs

This year, I launched free Basketball clinics at Nostrand Park, Golf at Marine Park and Tennis Clinics at Tilden Playground, giving our youth a fantastic opportunity to stay active and develop new skills during the summer. I look forward to having all scholars in the district benefit from these programs.



HOW CAN I SERVE YOU?

I provide through my office Constituent Services to provide assistance with City agencies and to take feedback about any ideas or concerns you have about your neighborhood. Every case matters to me, and I will make sure you are connected to needed resources in our City, as well as legal services, food assistance, and navigating government agencies and programs.

HOUSING: I continue to provide housing support through Flatbush Development Corporation to bring you housing assistance. Walk-in appointments are accepted and we will address any questions or concerns regarding applying for affordable housing, eviction prevention, public benefits, and other areas available to you!

IMMIGRATION SERVICES: I am proud to continue my partnership with CUNY Citizenship Now to assist you with any immigration and citizenship needs. Immigration attorneys are available on an appointment-basis, so do not hesitate to contact my office at **718-629-2900** or email us at **district45@council.nyc.gov**.

LEGAL SERVICES: This year, I am partnering with Brooklyn Legal Services A to provide free legal services for housing matters and your other needs. All are able to make an appointment to see legal counsel in my office by making an appointment.



FARAH N. LOUIS

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DEAR NEIGHBOR,

I am excited to share the highlights and achievements from the past year as we continue to work together to create a brighter future for Council District 45. As the **Chair of Landmarks, Public Sitings and Dispositions**, I am proud to play a leading role in designating historic districts, public space and properties, as well as the preservation of affordable housing, school buildings and land use in New York City. I have had the honor of joining my colleagues to fight for housing projects and initiatives with new infrastructure that will allow us to address the housing crisis citywide.

As we approach the end of the year with the **first-ever female majority to the City Council**, I have been able to make a number of strides for ensuring our district gets the resources our constituents need in order to thrive. In this year of significant opportunities and successes, I was **appointed to the Commission on Gender Equity** by Speaker Adrienne E. Adams, and I remain dedicated to breaking down gender barriers, dismantling discrimination, and addressing inequities affecting individuals of all genders. Several of my bills have been enacted into law, addressing issues such as pay equity, financial literacy, reproductive health, and economic abuse.

As a member of the City Council's Finance Committee, I am proud to have contributed to the passage of a \$107 billion budget that advances efforts to improve **public safety**, increase access to **healthcare**, support **public libraries** and **schools**, improve **parks and public spaces**, and much more. In kind, I have made major funding allocations to improve sanitation in our district, with funding allocated to enhance cleaning efforts along residential streets and commercial corridors and continuing to address abandoned vehicles on our streets. It is our responsibility to keep pushing back against projected cuts and working with colleagues, advocates and neighbors to create more just, caring, and healthy communities in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

Housing remains a top priority for me, and I am honored to have **funded and spearheaded** the groundbreaking of Bethany Terraces, our **second success in senior affordable housing development**, which emphasizes sustainability, community integration, and improved living conditions.

I am thrilled to have celebrated a number of developments for our youth, including ribbon-cuttings for the **newly renovated Sunners Playground**, showcasing **newly renovated basketball courts at Fox Playground**, and finally **breaking ground for the Shirley Chisholm Recreation Center**, a legacy project that I fought vigorously to get for this district and Central Brooklyn, all vital projects enhancing our community's public spaces and services.

As we look to the future, I remain committed to serving your needs, advocating for our community, and building a more equitable and inclusive New York City for all.

In Service,

Farah N. Louis,
Council Member, District 45



CITY COUNCIL BUDGET VICTORIES

- ▶ \$76.2 million for Restoration of Cuts to Cultural Institutions and Libraries
- ▶ \$3.7 million for Citywide Maternal and Child Health Services
- ▶ \$5M for Technology and Upgrades for all Council District 45 Schools
- ▶ \$2.6M for Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty Warehouse—Preston Court
- ▶ \$1.75M for STEM Lab at Meyer Levin Middle School
- ▶ \$1.6M Cooking Kitchen at Cultural Academy for the Arts & Sciences at Tilden HS
- ▶ \$1.5M Sesame Flyers for the New Cultural Center in East Flatbush
- ▶ \$1M Renovations for Tilden Playground
- ▶ \$1M Renovations for Chiarantano Playground & Play Area
- ▶ \$750K Doula Services at Morris Heights Health Center
- ▶ \$481K Mount Sinai Hospital Fluoroscopy Diagnostic Machine—Kings Highway

TACKLING GUN VIOLENCE AND PROMOTING SAFETY

Spearheading Anti-Gun Violence Initiatives Council Member Louis Tackles Gun Violence through Anti-Gun Violence Initiatives

This summer, in recognition of Gun Violence Awareness Month, I had the pleasure of organizing the first Anti-Gun Violence Youth Rally in East Flatbush at Nostrand Playground. This event kicked off an eight-week public safety and mental health project with the help of rapper Lil Mama, our Cure Violence operators, and the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to encourage young people to participate in Summer Youth Employment (SYEP) and other summer activities. Our youth are actively managing our local urban farm stands, a two-pronged program that brings fresh fruits and vegetables to the community and providing employment opportunities with an opportunity for youth to earn money and learn small-business skills while staying engaged and achieving milestones in safe spaces. My goal is to make Central Brooklyn a safer place by promoting anti-gun violence initiatives and offering youth supportive programs, all while uniting our community to be safer and vibrant.



Addressing Crises and Providing Social Services Council Member Louis Responds to Urgent Community Needs

This year, the precincts in my district have had the most historically safe years in history with new investments in youth activities and resources. However, having support systems in place is crucial to respond to violence in our communities. I was able to secure historic funding for Cure Violence operators in Flatbush, East Flatbush, and Midwood who are instrumental in times of need with their expertise in violence interruption, hate crime prevention, de-escalation, mediation, and community engagement. My partnership with community groups play a critical role in assisting our community during such challenging moments, offering guidance, counseling, and resources to help them navigate the emotional trauma of violence. I am committed to promoting peace and conflict resolution within the community, focusing on preventive measures to create a safer and more harmonious environment for all residents in our district.



Making Strides in Cultural Development Council Member Louis Supports Local Community Groups and Cultural Organizations

I am proud to announce that I have successfully secured a \$1 million allocation for the renovation of Sesame Flyers—a cultural and institutional hub in East Flatbush—which is a game changer as the neighborhood's first cultural community space. This investment safeguards and preserves cultural space dear to our Caribbean community and provides long-term sustainability and success of arts and culture in East Flatbush. Additionally, I celebrated the continued success of my Annual Juneteenth Celebration, fostering cultural awareness and community engagement across Brooklyn and underscores my commitment to cultural initiatives that contribute to the vibrancy and cohesion of our community.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **\$86M** — Prioritizing Crisis Management System (CMS) and Violence Prevention
- ▶ **\$121.2M** — Reducing Recidivism and Strengthening Reentry
- ▶ **\$14.6M** — Preventing Overdoses and Treating Addiction
- ▶ **\$100M** — Preserving Health Care Access through NYC Care
- ▶ **\$2.4M** — Sustaining the City's First Trauma Recovery Centers
- ▶ **\$1M** — Citywide Youth Entrepreneurship Programming

FIGHTING FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Leading Efforts for Equity Council Member Louis Appointed to Commission on Gender Equity

I am proud to have been appointed by Speaker Adrienne E. Adams to the Commission on Gender Equity. Alongside my esteemed colleague and Co-Chair of the Women’s Caucus Amanda Farias, and in the company of reappointed City Council Member Carlina Rivera, I am excited to continue to break down gender barriers, dismantle discrimination, and address inequities affecting individuals of all genders, regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, race, faith, gender expression, immigration status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

Promoting Resources and Reform Council Member Louis Advises on Domestic Violence and Homelessness

This year, I have had the opportunity to speak on a panel discussion convened by the Urban Resource Institute, which has historically been a partner in ensuring quality of life and dignity for survivors in my district and across Brooklyn who are looking for stability and housing after experiencing both economic hardships and domestic violence. I am thrilled to be a part of this effort to bring together leading voices in the industry to expand safe spaces for survivors while also discussing the crises of gender-based violence and homelessness to develop effective policies and investments in our communities.



Leading through Policy and Action Council Member Louis Enacts Several Bills into Law Focused on Equity

I am proud to have a number of bills enacted into law this year. Through my legislation, our city is making progress on our financial literacy for youth pay equity journey by getting Intro 54 signed by the Mayor, and we are committed to continuing our efforts to address the pervasive issue of pay disparities, particularly for women of color, requiring the department of health and mental hygiene to provide information on polycystic ovary syndrome and endometriosis, and increasing access to data on maternal mortality and morbidity for all New Yorkers. I also successfully worked with my colleagues to pass legislation for the City to recognize economic abuse as a form of domestic violence and would extend existing protections for domestic violence victims to those who have experienced economic abuse, and had signed a bill mandating the City provide fiscal and financial tool kits our youth can utilize to be productive citizens and promote long-term economic stability and success.



LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ **Intro 541 → Local Law 29 of 2023:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to amending the reporting of pay and employment equity data.
- ▶ **Intro 482 → Local Law 87 of 2022:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the department of health and mental hygiene to provide information on polycystic ovary syndrome and endometriosis.
- ▶ **Intro 409 → Local Law 84 of 2022:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to increasing access to data on maternal mortality and morbidity.
- ▶ **Intro 54 → Local Law 98 of 2023:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to financial empowerment education in department of youth and community development programs.
- ▶ **Intro 148 → Local Law 31 of 2023:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to expanding the definition of victim of domestic violence to include economic abuse.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE IN DISTRICT 45

Transportation

I conducted a comprehensive walkthrough with DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, focusing on prioritizing major transportation issues related to ponding, potholes, street cleaning, and speed bumps. I commit to enhancing the overall quality of transportation infrastructure in our area and ensuring a safer, more efficient, and enjoyable experience for all residents and commuters.



Sanitation & Compost

My dedication to enhancing the quality of life for all district residents takes center stage as we focus on sanitation improvements within our community. In FY24, I have allocated \$25,000 to support supplemental cleaning and organized a walkthrough with DSNY Commissioner Jessica Tisch to visit our district. Together, we discussed innovative strategies to improve the cleanliness of our streets and introduced borough-wide composting initiatives with our neighbors, fostering a greener and more sustainable future for our City.



Quality Housing

In a remarkable achievement, I lead efforts to enforce comprehensive, high-quality repairs at a number of buildings with the Department of Housing Preservation & Development, while earmarking resources for Central Brooklyn's largest affordable development. I continue to secure significant benefits for tenant needs at the forefront, guaranteeing well-maintained units, free from vermin, leaks, and hazardous conditions.



Building Affordable Housing & Infrastructure

Council Member Louis Breaks Ground on Second Affordable Development for Older Adults in District 45

As I continue to fight for affordable housing, I celebrated the groundbreaking for the construction of Bethany Senior Terraces, my second success in affordable housing development within the district, bringing 40,000 square feet of sustainable, affordable independent housing for older adults and shared community facilities that promote health, wellness, and neighborhood connections. This project not only meets the pressing need for affordable senior housing in the City but also prioritizes community integration and vibrant living for all residents. I am excited to spearhead a housing project designed from the ground up to encourage socialization and activities that enhance physical and mental well-being that builds on our neighborhood's community.



LANDMARKING HIGHLIGHTS

Council Member Louis Passes Historic Designations and New Schools Citywide

- ▶ **LU 248** - (Former) Colored School No. 4, Manhattan (N 230362 HIM)
- ▶ **LU 249** - New 696-Seat Primary School Facility, Queens (G 230029 SCQ)
- ▶ **LU 176** - Approximately 547-Seat Primary School, Queens (G 220027 SCQ)
- ▶ **LU 177** - Approximately 659-Seat High School, Queens (G 220028 SCQ)
- ▶ **LU 170** - The Samuel Gompers Industrial High School, Bronx (N 230166 HIX)
- ▶ **LU 247** - Linden Street Historic District, Brooklyn (N 230353 HKK)
- ▶ **LU 175** - Melrose Parkside Historic District, Brooklyn (N 230177 HKK, DL-530/LP-2664)