

HOUSING AND HOMEOWNER SUPPORT SERVICES



Council Member Louis works alongside Housing Advocate from Flatbush Development Corporation to assist constituents with NYC Housing Connect applications.

This year, I continue to provide housing support through Flatbush Development Corporation for housing assistance, addressing any questions regarding applying for affordable housing, eviction prevention, public benefits, and navigation with your housing vouchers, the Department of Buildings for permit assistance and building code information, along with Brooklyn Legal Services A for free legal assistance and services.

For more information on the housing services provided, please contact my office or to visit us on Wednesdays between 10 AM - 4 PM.



Brooklyn Legal Services A and NYC Department of Buildings partner to provide monthly services to homeowners from the Council District 45 office.

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES & PATHWAYS TO CITIZENSHIP

In February, I hosted a first annual Employment Authorization Document (EAD) Clinic in my district in partnership with Fragomen Global, LLP, the Haitian Studies Institute, and the Haitian American Caucus to provide this needed service for new New Yorkers in our community for them to contribute to our local economy.

I am proud to continue my partnership with CUNY Citizenship Now to assist with any immigration and citizenship needs weekly at my office. Immigration attorneys are available by appointment by contacting my office to receive assistance.



Council Member Louis hosts EAD Clinic at the Flatbush YMCA.



Council Member Louis participates in The Bridge Multicultural and Advocacy Project Clothing Drive for Children of Asylum Seekers.



Council Member Louis hosts a Spring Luncheon for Older Adult Clubs in the Midwood/Flatlands area in District 45.

ENGAGING OUR OLDER ADULTS AND SHARING BENEFITS



Council Member Louis hosts the Older Adult Carnival at Midwood Older Adult Center in Canarsie.

Last fall, I proudly hosted our annual Fall Senior Concert in collaboration with Millennium Development, Brooklyn Arts Council, Tropical Fete, and Sesame Flyers, and visited several older adult centers across the district to celebrate Valentine's Day and spread love and care to cherish our amazing older adults in District 45.



Council Member Louis gives Health & Wellness Gifts to Sarita Jean Older Adult Club for Valentine's Day in East Flatbush.

I am partnering with LiveOnNY to offer monthly benefits screening and application assistance in our office to help older adults navigate the complexities of both city and state programs, ranging from healthcare to housing and more.

Department for the Aging Services

- ▶ Tenancy and Eviction Support
- ▶ Transportation Program
- ▶ Health Insurance Information, Counseling, and Assistance
- ▶ Home-Bound Delivered Meals
- ▶ Older Adult Employment Program

For more information or to sign up, call 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469).

For more information on all services provided through my office, contact us at (718) 629-2900 or visit us at 1434 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210 (between Farragut and Glenwood Roads).

SMALL BUSINESSES UNDER ATTACK

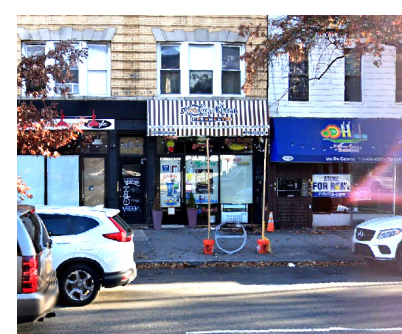
It is with loss that we acknowledge the closure of Lord's Bakery, a beloved institution in our Flatbush community for the past six decades, serving as a poignant reminder of the challenges faced by our local businesses amidst the shifting landscape of running a small business and nationwide inflation. For 60 years, Lord's Bakery has been a cornerstone of our neighborhood, serving up freshly baked goods and warm smiles to generations of residents. Additionally, at the start of 2024 three vital businesses along the Flatbush Corridor, Kookies and Kream, Ambience Restaurant, and Flatbushian Cafe, shuttered. These businesses leave a void in our communities and more work must be done to ensure we are supporting all entrepreneurs and business owners in our community.

We must address the proliferation of illegal smoke shops in our community, as they pose

a health and economic risk to our families and neighbors. As a co-sponsor of a bill in the City Council **INTRO 1001-B**, I am pleased to share that this legislation prohibits owners of commercial spaces from knowingly leasing to unlicensed sellers of marijuana or tobacco products, imposing fines on landlords for violations. This law marks another significant step in New York City's ongoing crackdown on illegal cannabis smoke shops that have sprung up across the five boroughs in the last year, and goes hand in hand with the newly passed FY25 State Budget which allows the city to quickly shut down illegal smoke shops and keep them closed.

I encourage all business owners in our community to make use of resources provided by **NYC Small Business Services** for vital support such as free business consulting services, commercial lease legal assistance, and much more.

Visit www.nyc.gov/business to register for SBS Connect for services for your business.



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL • 250 BROADWAY • 27TH FLOOR • NY, NY 10007



NEWS FROM NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER SPRING 2024

FARAH N. LOUIS

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LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Intro 278:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to establishing a missing person alert system.
- ▶ **Reso 126:** Resolution calling on the Governor to declare anti-Black racism a public health issue.
- ▶ **Reso 281:** Resolution calling on New York State to identify and implement measures to reduce disparities faced by businesses owned by women of color in obtaining and fulfilling public contracts.
- ▶ **Reso 283:** Resolution calling on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to provide non-police staff working in the subway system with training and a protocol for handling issues with mentally ill customers.
- ▶ **Intro 691:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to annual reporting on racial and gender disparities in STEM education for high school students.
- ▶ **Intro 827:** A Local Law to amend the New York City Charter, in relation to establishing an office of human trafficking.
- ▶ **Intro 828:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the distribution of information relating to careers in civil service at the City University of New York.
- ▶ **Intro 829:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the promotion of civil service examinations.
- ▶ **Intro 830:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the Commissioner of Correction to develop a comprehensive training program for investigation of sexual crimes.
- ▶ **Intro 831:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the Police Department to report on missing persons.
- ▶ **Reso 373:** Resolution calling upon the New York City Department of Education to require age-appropriate human trafficking curriculum and instruction for students in grades K-12.

NEWS FROM NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER SPRING 2024

FARAH N. LOUIS

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

DEAR NEIGHBOR,

I am pleased to share with you some of our most significant legislative achievements from the last session as I welcome new neighbors into our district. As our District 45 has now expanded to include new residences in Midwood, Flatbush, East Flatbush, Marine Park, and Canarsie, I look forward to fostering community bonds with our new neighbors and ensuring that all voices are heard and represented in this new session.

I am honored to have been appointed as Chair of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity by Speaker Adrienne Adams, who will continue to lead our Council in the next session as a formidable force and partner in government for all my colleagues. As part of the most diverse and first women-majority Council, we have accomplished several crucial milestones that directly impact our communities across Central Brooklyn and the City of New York, and I am dedicated to championing legislative priorities that promote equitable opportunities for all women in New York City.

One of my key accomplishments in the Council is making strides to promote Pay Equity and to address pay disparities across our municipal workforce. Through my leadership of the Pay Equity Package in the City Council, and with my bill signed by Mayor Eric Adams, **Local Law 29 of 2023 (INTRO 541-A)**, we are ensuring transparency within our city agencies on pay scales and opportunities for advancement in careers for our municipal workforce.

Promoting Financial Literacy remains a prime focus for me in this session, as I continue to provide advancements in socio-economic well-being in our community through education on responsible financial practices. My bill to mandate programs offered by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) is now **Local Law 98 of 2023 (INTRO 54-A)**, and aims to equip our youth with essential financial literacy skills, fostering greater economic stability and success. Additionally, I take pride in funding AYO Labs and breaking ground on the first beauty manufacturing hub tailored for Black- and women-owned businesses. This initiative represents a significant investment in new jobs and opportunities for young people, highlighting the vital role of financial education in equipping our entrepreneurs with the tools they need to thrive.

Furthermore, pregnancy-associated mortality continues to exhibit significant racial disparities, with Black women experiencing a death rate four times higher at 101.1 deaths per 100,000 live births compared to 23.9 deaths per 100,000 live births for White counterparts. I have been diligently working to raise awareness regarding failures to protect reproductive and maternal health, which constitute a violation of women's fundamental human rights. I am additionally advocating for treatment of women's chronic health disorders, such as fibroids, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and endometriosis, and passed **Local Law 87 of 2022 (INTRO 482-A)** requiring the City to disseminate crucial information to the public about these conditions.

In addition to these legislative achievements, I am grateful and honored to have been re-elected as Co-Chair of the Brooklyn Delegation alongside Council Member Chi Ossé, District 36, by my colleagues in the City Council.

I am incredibly proud to continue to represent our district and advocate for our interests at City Hall, and as we move forward, I look forward to engaging with you and our neighbors throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall Together, we will continue working towards positive change and progress for our district.

Sincerely,

Farah N. Louis
Farah N. Louis,
Council Member, District 45



Council Member Louis Chairs First Hearing Newly Appointed by Speaker Adams as Chair of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity.



Council Member Louis Funds AYO Labs & Breaks Ground on First Beauty Manufacturing Hub for Black- and women-owned businesses.



Co-Chair Louis of the Brooklyn Delegation Joins Colleagues at COJO Flatbush.



Council Member Louis joins Governor Kathy Hochul in unveiling a plan to Combat Maternal and Infant Mortality.

ADDRESSING WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY ISSUES

I was delighted to participate in the Urban Resource Institute's inauguration of **PALS Place**, a pet-friendly domestic violence shelter located in my district bringing compassion and empowerment for women seeking healing safety. I also had the privilege of attending the **52nd Annual New York State Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislators Conference** to panel on two discussions led by State Senators Cordell Cleare and James Sanders, Jr. focusing on reducing gun and domestic violence effectively for all district residents.

I also held a conversation with the Sororities of the Divine Nine to share and provide invaluable insights to address systemic issues facing women in New York City, including concerns about MWBE participation, civic education among our youth, and necessary policy changes to empower girls and women.



Council Member Louis holds Divine Harmony: D9 Vision Exchange to discuss issues and initiatives for women.



Council Member Louis joins Ribbon Cutting for Urban Resource Institute People PALS Place Garden Pet Haven.



Council Member Louis joins Ribbon Cutting for Urban Resource Institute People PALS Place Garden Pet Haven.

Legislative Successes for Domestic Violence Survivors

- **Resolution 165:** Resolution calling on the State Legislature to authorize certain shelters for victims of domestic violence to be reimbursed for any payment differential for housing a single individual in a room intended for double occupancy, expanding access to emergency housing for women in crisis.
- **Introduction 148 – Local Law 31 of 2023:** Expanding the definition of victim of domestic violence to include economic abuse, allowing our agencies to support women who are experiencing debt and financial coercion.

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS WITH DISTRICT 45 COMMUNITIES

From festive celebrations to meaningful gatherings, I am delighted to connect with residents of every part of my district and I look forward to collaborating with civic and spiritual leaders across our district to foster unity, celebrate diversity, and spread joy throughout our community!



Council Member Louis Joins PS 119K Chorus & Dancers for Holiday Lighting at Amersfort Park.



Council Member Louis Hosts Kids Holiday Party & Toy Giveaway at Flatbush Gardens.



Council Member Louis Joins Youth for an Easter Celebration with FDC Cornerstone at Glenwood Houses.



Council Member Louis Volunteers at the American Council of Minority Women Ramadan Foodbox Distribution.



Council Member Louis Joins Iftari Celebration with Brooklyn Emerge for Breaking Fast with Community.



Council Member Louis Attends Council of People's Organization Ramadan Lighting Ceremony on Coney Island Avenue.



Council Member Louis Greets Community Leaders for Rosh Hashanah with Honey Cake.



Council Member Louis Visits Jewish Community Council of Marine Park's Family Library for Purim Mask Making.



Council Member Louis Celebrates Sukkot with Speaker Adrienne Adams, Jewish Caucus, Jewish Leaders at City Hall.

PRIORITIZING YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE IN CENTRAL BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Clean-Up & Beautification Initiative



Tree Pit Clearing and Beautification Along Nostrand Avenue.



Council Member Louis Hosts Paper Shredding Event in the District.

In March, I partnered with Deputy Mayor Meera Joshi for an extensive cleanup effort in our district as we enter the Spring as part of Mayor Adams's 'Get Stuff Clean' initiative. We addressed various neighborhood concerns, including graffiti removal, street and sidewalk cleaning, and park maintenance across the district, and the teams deployed by the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations prioritized the Nostrand Avenue corridor to start the year with clean and vibrant streets.

Each year, I fund ACE Contract Services to perform weekly supplemental cleaning of particular areas of the district that need special attention, and I have expanded their scope to perform snow removal for older adults and their homes. This summer, I will be launching a volunteer program to assist with areas that need additional cleaning, and I am grateful for the ongoing coordination to address outstanding requests such as weed removal and graffiti removal to make meaningful strides towards a cleaner, more vibrant district.

Making Strides for Public, Traffic and Community Safety



Council Member Louis participates in 67th Precinct Community Council town hall to discuss public and street safety issues in East Flatbush, Flatlands and Kings Highway.

To address concerns raised by many of my constituents regarding the proliferation of abandoned vehicles and unsafe conditions on residential streets, my office recently participated in a walkthrough with the NYPD in the areas surrounding Harry Maze Playground in East Flatbush, observing the hazards posed by abandoned cars and illegal dumping in our community. I look forward to working closely with all agencies for rotation towing to develop plans to both tackle these longstanding citywide issues.

Updates on Bethany Senior Affordable Housing and Recreation Center in District 45



Progress on Bethany Senior Terraces as of March 2024.



Council Member Louis speaks with Jay Dow from PIX 11 on Progress on Shirley Chisholm Recreation Center.

Legislative Highlight

- **Resolution 280:** A Local Law designating November 30 annually as Shirley Chisholm Day in the City of New York to recognize her contributions as an educator, activist, and elected official, who served the people of New York City with passion and dignity.

INVESTMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND IMPACT

Fighting for Community Input in New York State Developments



Council Member Louis speaks to constituents and representatives of Governor Kathy Hochul at P.S. 109.



Council Member Louis discusses City of Yes and receives recommendations and feedback at Community Board 14.



Council Member Louis shows illegal dumping site by proposed IBX station on Utica Avenue to NYCT President Davey, requesting funding for beautification and public greenspace.

With new projects and initiatives within the City and the State, our community deserves to be kept aware of all of the projects that may impact our residents, renters and homeowners alike.

I have been actively engaging with civic groups and leaders to gather valuable feedback on the Department of City Planning's City of Yes Zoning amendments. It is my priority to ensure concerns surrounding the proposals aimed at addressing climate justice, economic opportunity, and the housing crisis are inclusive and considerate of the Central Brooklyn communities I represent are heard by our administration.

In March, I had the privilege of partnering with New York State Senator Kevin Parker to host an Interborough Express (IBX) townhall in our district to review the Governor's proposal to reactivate the LIRR Bay Ridge Branch with an innovative Workforce Development proposal, providing an opportunity for community members to review and discuss these vital initiatives. I am committed to having future conversations to address concerns such as eminent domain and construction impacts to neighboring residents.

During Preliminary Budget Hearings held by the City Council, I questioned the MTA on the impacts of congestion pricing to our communities in transit deserts, and hosted New York City Transit President Richard Davey in my district to ensure all of our communities' transit concerns are actively considered, and that all investments into our neighborhoods are done with community involvement first.

Protecting SUNY Downstate & Expanding Access To Mental Health & Healthcare

In January, I received word of the proposed closure of the SUNY Downstate Medical Center, a crucial healthcare lifeline for patients and families across Central Brooklyn. Despite efforts on multiple fronts to promote this proposal, my constituents' wellbeing is my utmost priority and I continue to fight for new and continued investment.

I have made strides in advocating for continued investment in our healthcare systems, especially for women facing disparities in maternal and mental health treatment across our City, and am looking forward to pushing forward new legislative and budgetary initiatives to keep our families safe.



Council Member Louis hosts a Nutrition & Wellness Health Fair at Flatbush YMCA with Pre-Med Students and Local Culinary Chefs.



Council Member Louis cuts ribbon with Mayor Eric Adams, Speaker Adrienne Adams for First Trauma Recovery Center in Brooklyn at JCCGCI.



Council Member Louis rallies with PEF, UUP, and other unions and healthcare workers and speaks at community meetings to express outrage with the proposed closure of SUNY Downstate.