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THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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COUNCIL MEMBER • 27TH DISTRICT • QUEENS

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YOUTH SERVICES

Council Member Nantasha Williams Statement on the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

Last night I voted in favor of passing my first budget as a Council Member. My priority when running for council was to ensure that the 27th District was properly served by city government. I believe the budget captures this goal and we should be proud of it. We have included historic investments in areas that have been of rising concern to New Yorkers, such as hate crimes, sanitation, agency accountability, health, housing, and in our youth.

The budget is a commitment to ensuring that all New Yorkers have the opportunity to thrive. The Council recognizes that this budget is just one piece of a larger effort to rebuild New York's economy, but it is an important step forward. As the pandemic persists, the need for expanded services remains.

As Chair of the Civil and Human Rights Committee, I advocated for a restoration of funds for the Source of Income unit at CCHR and I am glad to see that \$452k was invested into this crucial unit. The Source of Income unit focuses directly on handling cases of income discrimination for those who are seeking housing. In the middle of a housing crisis funding a unit like this one will be incredibly impactful.

Sanitation is one of the main areas of concern in my district. This budget restores sanitation funding and allows for more precision, street, and lot cleaning, \$22M for expanded litter basket pickup, rat mitigation, and restores e-waste collection totaling an investment of over \$42 Million in sanitation alone.

In my district, I have secured funding that will support cultural programming, STEAM initiatives, food pantries, and environmental education. We are also a district that is predominantly homeowners and have a significant senior population. The budget includes \$90 Million to protect affordable homeownership with a property tax rebate. This will assist countless families who are struggling to make payments to keep their homes. It also includes funding for senior programming, elder abuse prevention programs and enhancements to existing senior centers. The budget adds a record breaking investment for an expansion in the Summer Youth Employment Program by securing 100,000 slots.

This budget is just the beginning and we will continue to work with the Administration to identify critical funding needs that might have fallen short like funding for our public schools. Additionally, we will continue to provide oversight in the upcoming months to ensure we are holding the agencies accountable.

I'm proud to have been a part of the decision-making body that delivered on a promise to bring the city a budget that reflects all New Yorkers and invests in our communities.