



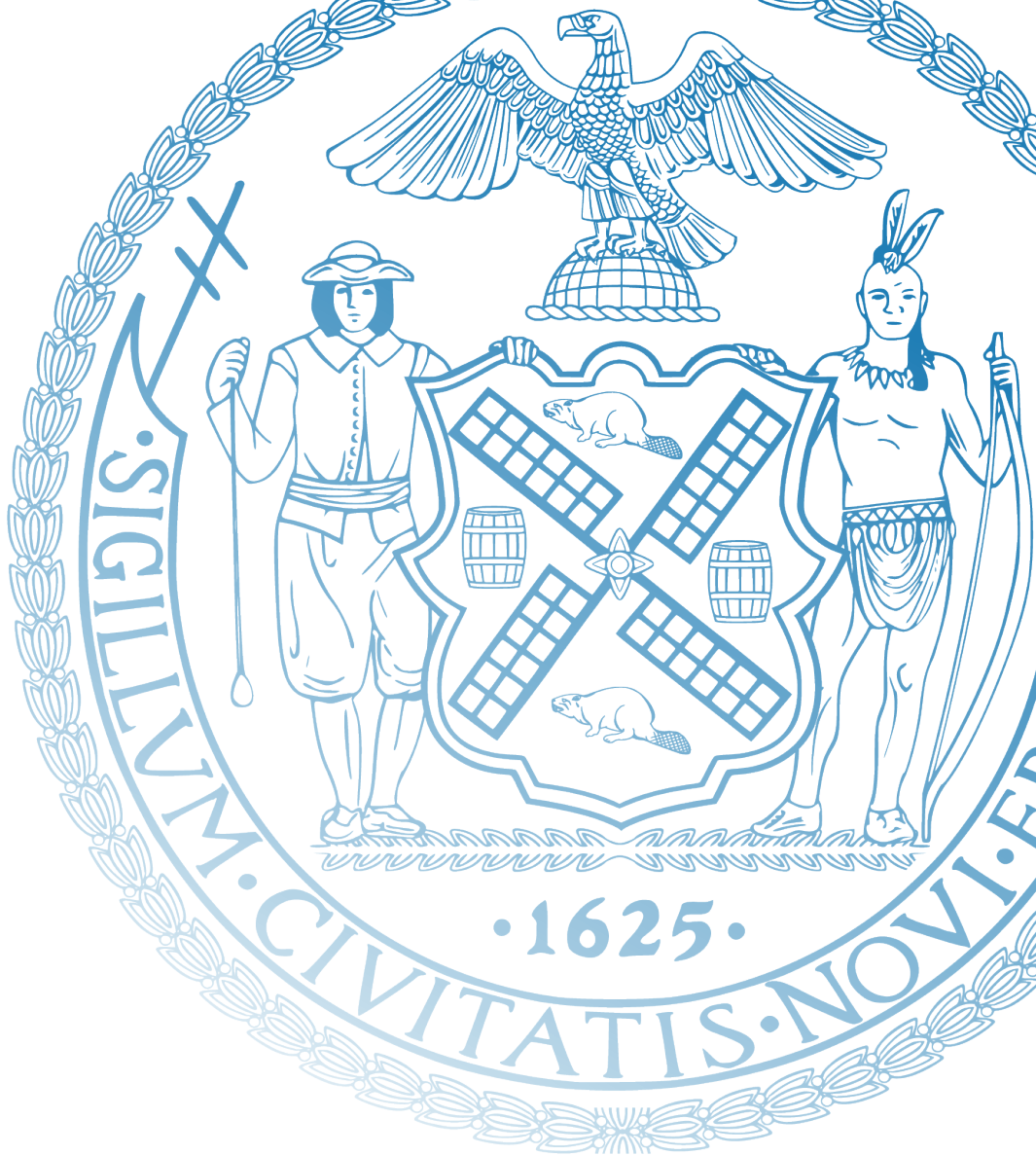
ADRIENNE ADAMS
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER

DECEMBER 2025

NEW YORK CITY'S **HISTORIC FIRSTS**



**A LEGACY OF EQUITY & INNOVATION BY THE
FIRST **WOMEN-MAJORITY** & **MOST DIVERSE**
CITY COUNCIL IN NYC HISTORY, LED BY
THE **FIRST BLACK SPEAKER****



ABOUT NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

The New York City Council is the lawmaking body of NYC. It is comprised of 51 elected members from each council district and led by Speaker Adrienne E. Adams.

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Letter from Speaker Adams

In 2021, New Yorkers elected the most diverse and first women-majority City Council in our city's history, and with it, I became our city's first Black Council Speaker.

Our historic representation fully reflected the breadth of New Yorkers' experiences, enabling us to lead differently than our predecessors. We have led city government to invest in our diverse communities, bringing attention and delivering solutions to issues that have long impacted people across our city who were historically overlooked.

When people who have experienced housing insecurity, poverty, the impacts of gender and racial disparities, and broader working-class struggles represent New Yorkers in government, the perspectives and priorities of all New Yorkers are better addressed.

New York City's first women-majority lawmaking body resulted in overdue attention towards tackling persistent inequities and injustices in health, opportunity, and safety. We uplifted women, who are the backbones of our families and communities, and women of color who sit at the intersection of our most pressing challenges.

The severe racial disparities in maternal health, which result in Black New Yorkers being six times more likely than white New Yorkers to die of pregnancy-related causes, were finally made a top priority. Marginalized communities, especially Black and Latino communities, that are disproportionately affected by violence finally received investments in crime victim services and safety solutions that reach them.

It's no surprise that a truly representative majority stepped up to become the most pro-housing City Council in generations. We not only approved city-initiated housing land use proposals to unlock the creation of more new homes in four years than occurred in the previous 20 years combined, but also secured over \$8 billion in additional funding for affordable housing, homeownership opportunities, tenant protections, and neighborhood investments that ensure deeper affordability and meet the needs of all New Yorkers.



To open pathways to economic mobility for New Yorkers that lacked them, we expanded opportunities by creating new programs with CUNY. Launching CUNY Reconnect, a program to support working-age adults who left college with some credits but without a degree, helped unlock greater income-earning potential for over 62,000 New Yorkers, the majority of whom are women and people of color.

This Council's historic diversity and women-majority have tangibly improved the lives of New Yorkers, especially those who did not always see themselves represented in the actions and priorities of government.

We are proud of our accomplishments over the last four years, including our incubation of innovative programs that help combat economic, educational, health, safety, and opportunity disparities. CUNY Reconnect, trauma recovery centers, CUNY Social Work Fellows, and our work on early childhood education, immigrant services, and maternal health offer effective, solution-focused models that can be expanded to help more New Yorkers, narrow inequities, and strengthen our city.

As the drive for greater affordability continues, city government must remember the longtime residents who helped build our city's neighborhoods for generations, but have too often been left behind to struggle against inequities.

As public servants, it is our responsibility to improve the conditions of our communities and confront the disparities that have endured for too long. This Council's mission to center those who have been pushed to the margins should be carried forward. Our city must continue to prioritize Black, Latino, and Asian communities that have not always received their due priority, and those experiencing poverty, as well as working people and immigrant communities across our city. They all make our city what it is—culturally, economically, and civically.

New York City is only as strong as our people. The long history of gender and racial inequities requires a more specific focus on targeted solutions that help build a city for all of us.

I thank my colleagues, partners in government, advocates, city institutions, service providers, and all New Yorkers who have played a role in our work over the last four years. Together, we have provided our city with steady, unwavering, and principled leadership—prioritizing the needs of New Yorkers above all else.

We have left a roadmap of solutions that must continue to be built upon to deliver the brighter and more equitable future New Yorkers deserve.



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SPEAKER ADRIENNE ADAMS

Confronting the Housing Crisis

Housing is one of the most basic elements to the foundation of healthy and safe neighborhoods, and it remains one of the greatest factors of the affordability crisis that the City must address. Facing a historic housing shortage, low vacancy rates, and rising homelessness decades in the making, the Council made confronting the housing crisis a top priority. In the first year of her term, Speaker Adams advanced a comprehensive [Housing Agenda](#) and [Fair Housing Framework](#) to advance the key principle that every neighborhood must equitably contribute to the production of new homes for New Yorkers.

This Council's record on housing represented a major shift in the City's lawmaking body having a clear expectation of approving new housing. By the end of four years, this Council approved more housing units through city-initiated land use proposals than had been approved in the previous 20 years combined, advancing a historic citywide zoning reform and several historic neighborhood rezonings throughout the city. Together with the approval of individual land use applications, the Council has unlocked more than 161,000 units of housing across the city.

The Council also prioritized deepening affordability by securing over \$8 billion in additional affordable housing and neighborhood investments to ensure new development better meets the needs of New Yorkers. In addition, major investments, legislation, and policy changes were advanced to increase affordable homeownership, strengthen tenant protections, and support public housing.

Passing Historic Zoning Reforms with City for All Housing Plan and Deepening Housing Affordability

- ◆ Approved the modified [City of Yes for Housing Opportunity](#) text amendment – the first designed to increase housing production across all neighborhoods and enable the creation of more than 82,000 new homes over the next 15 years.

- ◇ Council modifications established affordable housing incentives for low-density areas that made inclusionary zoning citywide for the first time in New York City and deepened the affordability levels of affordable housing incentive programs, like Mandatory Inclusionary Housing.
- ◇ Through negotiations, the Council secured \$5 billion for its *City for All* housing plan's major investments in more affordable housing, homeownership programs, housing vouchers, Mitchell-Lama developments, NYCHA, tenant protections, and neighborhood infrastructure.
- ◆ Secured consistent funding additions for affordable housing in the city budget, including \$4 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, \$2 billion in FY 2025, and \$4 billion in FY 2026 for affordable housing creation and preservation through the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and NYCHA.
- ◆ Advocated successfully for New York State to **eliminate the outdated 12 FAR cap** that limited housing production in high-density parts of the city and advance new funding and policies to facilitate successful conversions of office buildings into housing.
- ◆ Passed **Fair Housing Framework Act** to require the City to develop targets that promote equitable housing contributions by every neighborhood and a set of **new laws** to require deeper affordability and family-sized apartments in city-subsidized affordable housing developments.


Advancing Historic Neighborhood Rezoning to Increase Housing Supply

- ◆ Speaker Adams released **Planning and Land Use Guidelines Toolkit** and **Community Planning Framework** to facilitate successful neighborhood rezonings.

Approved major neighborhood rezonings include:

- ◆ **OneLIC Neighborhood Plan:** Allows creation of nearly 15,000 new homes, including 4,350 permanently affordable, with more than \$905 million in community investments.

- ◆ **Jamaica Neighborhood Plan:** Allows creation of nearly 12,000 new homes, including nearly 4,200 permanently affordable, mapping the largest Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) affordable housing zone in the entire city within Southeast Queens. It is estimated to create 7,000 new jobs and includes \$413 million in community investments.
- ◆ **Midtown South Mixed-Use Plan:** Allows creation of over 9,500 units of housing, more than 2,800 of which will be permanently affordable, and delivers over \$448 million in community and infrastructure investments to the Midtown South area, while preserving garment industry businesses.
- ◆ **Bronx Metro-North Stations Rezoning:** Facilitates creation of approximately 7,000 new homes and delivers nearly \$500 million in infrastructure and community investments for the East Bronx.
- ◆ **Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan:** Facilitates creation of 4,600 new units of housing, approximately 1,900 of which will be permanently affordable, producing more affordable housing than has been constructed in the area over the last decade. It includes over \$235 million in community and infrastructure investments.
- ◆ **Willeys Point Phase II:** Facilitates creation of approximately 1,400 new units of permanently affordable housing as part of a mixed-use development.
- ◆ Secured **commitments** for additional neighborhood rezonings, as part of the *City for All* housing plan, and supported neighborhood-level proactive planning to facilitate preparation for their success.

A photograph of Council Member Kevin C. Riley, a Black man with a shaved head, speaking into a microphone at a public hearing. He is holding a map or document in his left hand. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in the room.

Council Member Kevin C. Riley at a hearing on the Jamaica Neighborhood Plan. Sep. 9, 2025

CREDIT: JOHN MCCARTEN/NYC COUNCIL MEDIA UNIT

Expanded Access to Affordable Housing and Protections for Renters

- ◆ Passed the FARE Act to **reform broker fees** and protect prospective renters from being forced to pay the fees of brokers they did not request in order to access the rental housing market.
- ◆ Passed **CityFHEPS reform laws** that remove bureaucratic obstacles for low-income New Yorkers to access the rental housing vouchers, so they can avoid evictions and transition from shelter into permanent housing. Overcame a mayoral veto, then successfully sued the mayor to require implementation of the enacted laws.
- ◆ Enacted **new law** to prevent rent increases on CityFHEPS recipients, despite mayor's veto.
- ◆ Passed the **Fair Chance for Housing Act** to prohibit housing discrimination on the basis of a past legal record.
- ◆ As part of the city budget and *City for All*, secured investments and baselined funding for legal service providers, including **Right to Counsel**, and **Anti-Harassment Tenant Protection program** to safeguard tenants from eviction and harassment with free legal representation and services.
- ◆ Enacted new law **strengthening tenant protections against unlawful eviction** by defining it as tenant harassment in the law.
- ◆ **Removed bureaucratic eligibility barriers to supportive housing** for New Yorkers most likely to benefit from them, as a highly effective solution to homelessness, and required greater transparency on vacant units.
- ◆ Passed the **Community Opportunity to Purchase Act** (COPA) to preserve the affordability of distressed residential buildings for tenants by giving mission-oriented entities the opportunities to purchase them for affordable housing preservation purposes.

- ◆ Secured additional investments for housing preservation and assistance programs, including CityFHEPS, Partners in Preservation, and Emergency Rental Assistance Payments.

Expanding and Supporting Homeownership

- ◆ Passed **legislation** to increase the City's production of affordable homeownership units.
- ◆ Expanded **homeownership programs**, including Homeowner HelpDesk, HomeFix 2.0, Mitchell-Lamas, and doubled funding for the HomeFirst Down Payment Assistance Program, to support working-class homeowners and increase affordable homeownership opportunities.
- ◆ Increased **property tax rebate** for working- and middle-class homeowners in Fiscal Year 2022 budget.
- ◆ Passed new laws to help homeowners and heirs protect their family assets from **deed theft**, which disproportionately targets and harms Black and Latino homeowners.
- ◆ Created a citywide program with local law schools and pro bono attorneys to support homeowners with **free estate planning resources** that protect their homes and generational wealth from deed theft and other predatory financial schemes.
- ◆ Enacted new laws to **reform the lien sale process** towards holistically prioritizing the efficient collection of outstanding property debt, housing needs, and community stability. Together, they shift the City from its current practice of selling liens to a Delaware-based trust to the use of a New York City-established land bank that prioritizes the greater public interest.
- ◆ Passed legislation to **reduce the lack of transparency in co-op purchases** that can leave prospective homeowners without a decision for unreasonably lengthy periods of time.
- ◆ Approved legislation creating of an **Office of the Homeowner Advocate** within HPD.

Supporting the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

- ◆ Secured \$200 million as part of the City for All Housing Plan to support NYCHA's apartment maintenance and strengthen its **Vacant Unit Readiness Program** that speeds up rehabilitation of vacant apartments for occupancy.
- ◆ Restored funding to maintain the security guard program for NYCHA's senior residences.
- ◆ Secured greater investments to **cover NYCHA rental arrears** for eligible resident households.
- ◆ Enacted new laws to **increase transparency** of the Permanent Affordability Commitment Together (PACT) program and better track the status of **vacant NYCHA apartments** for NYCHA residents.



Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, who led Council efforts to secure greater funding for NYCHA, speaks at a press conference. April 2, 2025

Expanding Educational and Economic Opportunity

New Yorkers' access to economic opportunity is pivotal to affordability and stability for families. Under Speaker Adams' leadership, the Council has advanced economic mobility initiatives to combat poverty and confront inequities in opportunity. Its efforts increased transit affordability, strengthened CUNY's role in supporting working-class New Yorkers, invested in entrepreneurs, small businesses and workers, and bolstered access to childcare. The Council's work has provided New Yorkers with greater opportunities and essential support.

Combating Poverty and Strengthening Pipelines of Opportunity

- ◆ **Launched CUNY Reconnect**, a university-wide program to re-enroll working-age New Yorkers who left college without a degree, and expanded its reach with increased funding in the city budget. The new program has brought over 62,000 students, the majority of whom are women and people of color, back to CUNY towards completing degrees that can increase their earning potential.
- ◆ **Defeated** a series of **repeated CUNY budget cuts** by the mayor that jeopardized academic programs, student services, and faculty support, restoring key funding and securing new investments to expand access, affordability, and support for students.
- ◆ **Expanded funding for Fair Fares** transit discounts in every budget, increasing its eligibility three years in a row from 100% of the Federal Poverty Level to **120% in FY 2024**, **145% in FY 2025**, and **150% in FY 2026** to ensure more working-class New Yorkers have affordable access to public transit.
- ◆ Enacted **new law** to require city development of an Industrial Development Strategic Plan that supports growth in the industrial sector, which provides mid-to-high wage jobs that do not require a college degree and advances green energy. Approximately 80% of the industrial workforce is made up of people of color, making it a key engine of economic equity.

- ◆ Modernized outdated commercial zoning regulations to support economic growth for small businesses, growing industries, and the industrial sector by passing a modified version of the **City of Yes Zoning for Economic Opportunity** (ZEO).
- ◆ Enacted **new laws to support NYCHA-resident entrepreneurs** and small business owners by exploring their potential use of vacant spaces within developments and grant funding.
- ◆ Approved a new law **requiring the City to help connect M/WBEs with capital** available from Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and convened a summit to connect these organizations and facilitate stronger relationships.
- ◆ Established the first **NYC-funded Minority Business Accelerator** to support minority-owned businesses obtaining increased access to private sector contracts from regional corporations, modeled after a similar effort in Cincinnati highlighted by the **Center for an Urban Future**.
- ◆ **Consistently fought for non-profit human services workers** to receive cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), securing **\$150 million in wage adjustments** for non-profit human services workers over multiple city budgets and eventually a **\$741 million COLA** that boosted pay for 80,000 workers, two-thirds of whom are women and nearly half are women of color.
- ◆ Enacted improvements to the **Salary Transparency Law** to ensure its successful implementation, empowering job seekers and eliminating bias in hiring salaries, followed by **further wage transparency improvements** for large employers to advance greater pay equity.
- ◆ Released multiple reports on wage disparities within the municipal workforce and passed legislation to **address identified racial and gender wage gaps** and increase access to opportunities.
- ◆ Approved **new laws to improve FDNY's recruitment and retention policies** that support women and people of color becoming firefighters. It was the strongest effort in city history to address the legacy of discrimination and lack of diversity in the FDNY.
- ◆ Passed new laws that expand access to civil service careers by establishing a **Civil Service Ambassador Program**, codifying the **Public Service Corps**, and creating pipelines into civil service for marginalized communities and populations.

- ◆ Approved laws to **expand opportunities for persons with disabilities**, relating to workforce development.
- ◆ Expanded Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to historic levels, serving 100,000 young people every summer.
- ◆ Established the first city-funded **guaranteed income program**, supporting expecting and housing-insecure mothers to improve maternal health and reduce child poverty. Then expanded funding to support a **guaranteed income program for youth** experiencing homelessness.
- ◆ Passed **new street vending reform laws** to expand opportunities for licenses, improve enforcement of regulations, and prevent **excessive criminal enforcement**.

Advancing Worker Protections

- ◆ Approved several e-bike safety laws, including reforms to **address the dangers of lithium-ion batteries** and establish **e-bike safety requirements and standards** for delivery services.
- ◆ **Extended delivery-worker protections** for all contracted delivery workers, including those delivering food, groceries, or other goods, by establishing pay, transparency, and safety standards.
- ◆ Passed new laws to protect for-hire vehicle service drivers and app-based delivery workers from being **unjustifiably deactivated** from the ability to work.
- ◆ Established a **hotel licensing program** for the city to better ensure the health and safety of consumers and workers.
- ◆ Passed legislation **establishing minimum wage and local hiring standards** for construction workers on certain city-funded development projects.
- ◆ Established **new wage and workplace standards** for security guards, following the 2025 shooting at 345 Park Avenue, where security guard, Aland Etienne, was killed on duty.

Protecting & Strengthening Early Childhood and K-12 Education

- ◆ Secured major investments in the city budget every year to **protect and strengthen early childhood education** programs towards a universal system. These efforts protected 3-K, funded more accessible seats for working families, increased early childhood special education programming, and expanded childcare, while advancing solutions to address operational challenges within the early childhood education system.
- ◆ Enacted **8 childcare laws** to expand access for working families and address systemic issues, including by creating a provider directory, a pilot grant program, and planning processes to advance access across the city.
- ◆ Secured stable funding for individual school budgets that were threatened by student enrollment fluctuations.
- ◆ Protected and saved hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for student support programs, including Summer Rising, Community Schools, and Learning to Work, that were threatened by the mayor's proposed budget cuts.



Speaker Adrienne Adams hosts storytime after press conference on 3K childcare at Grand Street Settlement
May 9, 2023

CREDIT: WILLIAM ALATRISTE/NYC COUNCIL MEDIA UNIT

Strengthening Essential Services and Protecting All New Yorkers

Supporting New Yorkers of every age and background, and in every neighborhood, is critical to ensuring all communities and our city can thrive. This City Council successfully fought to protect funding for libraries and cultural institutions in the budget, and historically increased city funding to expand their services for all New Yorkers. It also protected critical funding for parks and older adult services, which faced repeated threats from mayoral budget cuts and limited the ability to expand necessary investments. New York City's immigrant communities faced unprecedented attacks from the federal government that were too often met with complicity or silence by the mayor. It was the City Council, under Speaker Adams, that consistently defended the city's diverse communities and took actions to protect them from these federal attacks, while supporting the organizations and services that serve them. This Council filled the leadership gap in City Hall to ensure city government prioritized New Yorkers and the essential services they rely upon for safety, stability, and success.

Defending Cultural Institutions and Libraries

- ◆ **Reversed harmful budget cuts to libraries** by the mayor in FY 2025, protecting vital services at neighborhood library branches and restoring 6- and 7-day service with baselined, enhanced funding.
- ◆ Secured **increased library funding to expand 7-day service** to 11 new neighborhood branches in FY 2026, providing greater access to New Yorkers in all five boroughs.
- ◆ **Defeated the mayor's proposed funding cuts** to cultural institutions in the city budget, securing historic enhancements to support the city's renowned arts and cultural organizations that exponentially contribute to the city's economy.
- ◆ Secured millions of dollars in new capital funding for key cultural institutions across the city, including the Apollo Theater, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and New York Botanical Garden.

Empowering Seniors to Age in Place

- ◆ Advanced Aging in Place 2.0, a package of new laws to **expand older adult services and protections**, provide more accessible information, and require greater city planning that help older adults age safely and with dignity in their communities.
- ◆ Secured historic funding for **older adult center repairs and infrastructure upgrades** that make them safer, stronger, and more accessible, as well as for home-delivered meals.
- ◆ Restored the full **\$6.8 million in funding for security guards** at NYCHA senior developments that was cut in the mayor's proposed budget, supporting continued public safety at 55 senior buildings across the city.

Supporting City Parks

- ◆ Enhanced and restored key budget funding for Second Shift maintenance and cleaning positions to target hot spots in city parks that require attention to maintain.
- ◆ **Restored funding** to support Urban Park Rangers, Tree Stump Removal, and the Green Thumb program in the budget.
- ◆ Enacted new law requiring the Parks Department to develop a plan to **prevent and mitigate wildfires**, which became an increasing threat to city parkland.
- ◆ Released reports following investigations into the **cleanliness, conditions, and accessibility of public bathrooms**, and issued recommendations to address persistent issues and ensure cleaner, safer restrooms.
- ◆ Passed new laws to **address inequities in the quality of parks** and to expand the **public use of school playgrounds and basketball courts** during non-school hours.

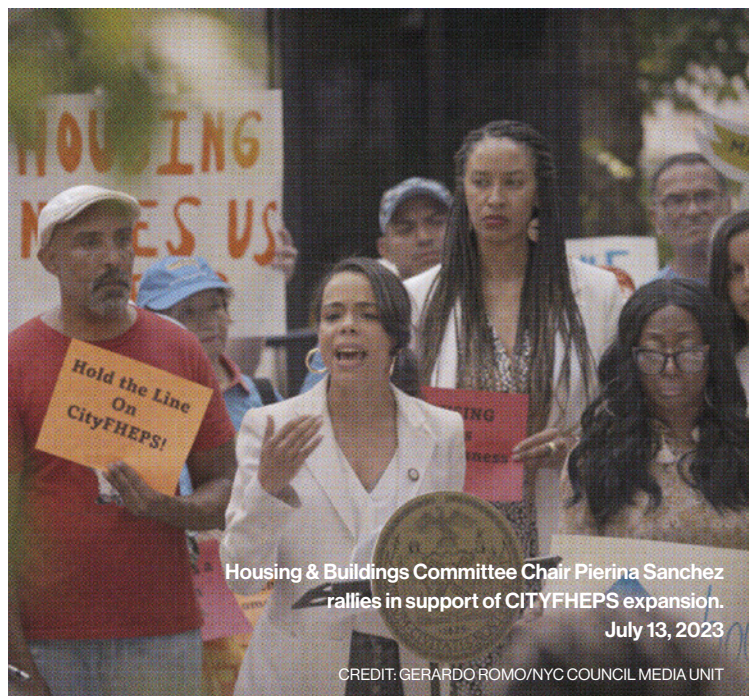
Protecting Immigrant Communities

- ◆ Successfully sued to prevent the mayoral administration from allowing **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on Rikers Island**. The Council's effort protected New Yorkers' civil rights and safety from being undermined by the City facilitating the Trump administration's extreme and unconstitutional actions. Subsequently, the Council passed legislation to **eliminate the legal exception** for such mayoral executive orders to permit an ICE office on Rikers.
- ◆ Secured **historic increase in funding for immigration legal services** in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget to protect the city's diverse communities from the Trump administration's extrajudicial and unconstitutional actions that target immigrant New Yorkers.
- ◆ Launched the **City's first-ever language access bank** to centralize interpretation services available to immigrants across the five boroughs and restored \$10 million in funding for Adult Literacy Programs in the city budget.
- ◆ Established new childcare access for undocumented families left out of eligibility for other programs and increased its funding to serve a greater number of children.
- ◆ Enacted new laws to **protect immigrant communities** from being financially exploited by fraudulent immigrant services businesses.
- ◆ Established the **New Arrivals Strategy Team** to advance improvements to the city's operations and services for new arrivals.
- ◆ **Launched Welcome NYC**, a public-private partnership to support the organizations assisting new arrivals, asylum seekers, and their communities.



Immigration Committee Chair Alexa Avilés, speaks at rally after judge blocks mayor from allowing ICE to set up office on Rikers Island.

CREDIT: JOHN MCCARTEN/NYC COUNCIL MEDIA UNIT





Council Member Linda Lee speaks at press conference announcing Mental Health Roadmap.
April 24, 2023

CREDIT: JOHN MCCARTEN/NYC COUNCIL MEDIA UNIT



Council Member Crystal Hudson hosts "Age in Place 2.0" rally.
November 13, 2024

CREDIT: GERARDO ROMO/NYC COUNCIL MEDIA UNIT



Speaker Adrienne Adams and Council Member Sandra Ung announce funding for Queens Botanical Garden.
September 22, 2023

CREDIT: GERARDO ROMO/NYC COUNCIL MEDIA UNIT



Council Members Shahana Hanif and Sandy Nurse rally ahead of veto override for "How Many Stops Act."
January 30, 2024

CREDIT: GERARDO ROMO/NYC COUNCIL



Council Member Dr. Nantasha Williams and Speaker Adrienne Adams hold walking tour to announce Jamaica Neighborhood Plan.
May 26, 2023

CREDIT: GERARDO ROMO/NYC COUNCIL MEDIA UNIT



Improving Public Safety

Under Speaker Adams' leadership, the Council has advanced innovative public safety solutions that better prevent crime and violence. Its approach has confronted inequities in who has access to safety, prioritizing historic investments for communities that have long lacked access to victim services. This Council also enacted reforms to increase police transparency and accountability that are necessary to improve public safety, expanded water safety efforts, and bolstered fire safety in neighborhoods. Under Speaker Adams, the Council also focused city government on the necessary actions and investments to close Rikers Island, as mandated by law, and address the current humanitarian crisis there that jeopardizes the safety of people detained, jail staff, and all New Yorkers. This Council provided leadership to confront the immense challenges in city jails when the mayor and his administration failed to address them.

Supporting Crime Victims

- ◆ Established and funded **New York State's first trauma recovery centers (TRCs)** in **the Bronx, Coney Island, East Flatbush, and Downtown Brooklyn** to provide underserved survivors of violence with crime victim services and stop cycles of crime in neighborhoods experiencing high rates of violence. Speaker Adams also secured multi-year city funding for the creation and operation of a new TRC in Jamaica, Queens as part of the 2025-approved Jamaica Neighborhood Plan.
- ◆ Created a new Speaker's discretionary budget initiative – the **Community Safety and Crime Victims Services Initiative** – to provide each Council district with funding for crime victim services and community safety programs.
- ◆ Passed the **Support Survivors Act** requiring city agencies to establish a housing stability grant assistance program for crime survivors and create an online portal and resource guide for survivors, and secured increased funding for the program.
- ◆ Approved new law to **create a legal framework** for survivors of gender-motivated violence to seek accountability, providing victims with the opportunity to pursue legal accountability.

- ◆ Enacted a new law requiring the Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) to establish a **trauma-informed program** that connects eligible survivors to support services, including door and window repair services.
- ◆ Passed new laws to **recognize economic abuse** as a form of domestic violence (DV) in the City's Human Rights Law, protect DV victims' ability to **safely vote**, and provide **free legal services** to DV victims in divorce proceedings.

Advancing Community Safety

- ◆ Passed legislation **improving the accuracy of police data** on crime-solving to increase transparency and data-driven public safety policymaking.
- ◆ Increased city investments in gun violence prevention programs and passed new laws to **bolster training and operational support** for Crisis Management System programs.
- ◆ Enacted the **How Many Stops Act** to reduce underreporting and miscategorization of police-civilian investigative encounters, increasing the transparency necessary to improve public safety.
- ◆ Passed new laws requiring FDNY to **better support EMS workers' safety** by providing safety equipment and deescalation and self-defense training.
- ◆ Approved **new laws to improve fire safety**, following the Twin Parks fire that took the lives of 17 New Yorkers, including eight children.
- ◆ Enacted **new laws** to bolster **support for victims of fire emergencies** by requiring improved notifications and better procedures to help affected tenants receive the relevant information they need after a vacate order.
- ◆ Passed new laws to **address the fire hazards** posed by lithium-ion battery-powered devices, including creation of the city's first **battery swap program** to remove uncertified batteries from circulation.
- ◆ Approved laws to advance street safety for all road users, including bills to require the Department of Transportation (DOT) to implement **daylighting at 100 dangerous intersections**, install traffic calming devices at senior pedestrian zones, and prioritize **equity in street safety investments**.

- ◆ Enacted laws to strengthen the **environmental safety and efficiency** of sidewalk sheds, including bills to shorten the duration of sidewalk shed permits and modernize lighting beneath them, and to **increase pedestrian lighting**.
- ◆ Enacted several new laws to strengthen citywide access to **swimming and water safety**, including establishment of free water safety instruction to public school students, mandated reporting on drowning deaths, and required dissemination of information on **drowning prevention, public pools, and water safety**.

Advancing Solutions to Close Rikers, Improving Safety in City Jails, and Reducing Recidivism

- ◆ Reestablished the **Independent Rikers Commission** to strengthen the roadmap towards closing Rikers and released a set of **priority action steps** to improve mental healthcare access, reduce recidivism, and ensure coordinated leadership that produces outcomes to reduce case delays and the inflated jail population. The Council subsequently **approved new laws** to reduce court delays within city control and require dedicated City Hall staff to coordinate Rikers closure and **secured budget investments** to increase access to mental health services, Justice Involved Supportive Housing, and other recidivism reduction programs. These efforts advanced priorities to close Rikers, as recommended by the commission.
- ◆ Approved several laws to help safely **reduce the excessive population on Rikers Island**, ensuring people make it to court so lengths of stay aren't inflated, protect transgender, gender non-conforming, non-binary, and/or intersex (TGNCNBI) people detained, and increase transparency.
- ◆ Approved new law to **ban solitary confinement** in all forms in city jails and prohibit long-term isolation, then successfully sued the mayoral administration to overturn its unlawful executive orders to block implementation of the law.
- ◆ Passed new laws to **reduce opioid overdoses and deaths** in city jails and improve the Department of Correction's (DOC) **responses to incidents of sexual violence**.
- ◆ Enacted new laws requiring **greater transparency on deaths in city jails** and the creation of a Jail Death Review Board to examine and address systemic underlying issues.

Advancing Equitable Health and Sustainability

One of city government's core functions is to protect the health and well-being of all New Yorkers, who deserve a public health system that is accessible, inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of every community. Under Speaker Adams' leadership, the Council advanced reforms to strengthen equitable access to health for diverse communities, confronting racial disparities and supporting access for marginalized New Yorkers. The Council led unprecedented efforts to address the maternal mortality crisis that disproportionately harms Black women and other women of color, respond to the elimination of federal reproductive health rights, and advance critical mental health solutions.

Prioritizing Equity in Physical Health

- ◆ Enacted laws to confront historic racial disparities in the lack of focus on **treatment of Sickle Cell Disease** to improve health outcomes for those affected and increase awareness of the sickle cell trait among New York City public school students.
- ◆ Expanded the **availability of rapid testing sites** for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) across the city, representing a critical next step in citywide efforts to reduce rates of STIs and HIV.
- ◆ Enacted a series of new laws to address addiction and overdoses by requiring the creation of a **community-based plan to address the opioid epidemic** with local solutions, strengthening opioid **overdose prevention in nightlife establishments**, and better **tracking Opioid Settlement Fund spending**.
- ◆ Advanced **legislative package to protect civil rights, healthcare access**, and well-being for transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary and/or intersex (TGNCNBI) New Yorkers, requiring improved access to information on available resources and support, increased legal protections for healthcare access, and more inclusive administrative policies.

- ◆ Passed several laws to improve public health access, including to increase **vision testing for low-income** New Yorkers, increase **transparency of healthcare costs**, and require added **sugar notifications for menu items** in chain restaurants.
- ◆ Enacted new law requiring a plan to **create over 2,100 public bathrooms** within the next 10 years.
- ◆ Approved legislation **establishing minimum cooling standards** to protect tenants from the extreme heat and its negative health impacts

Addressing Racial Disparities in Maternal Health and Increasing Equitable Access to Abortion and Reproductive Healthcare

- ◆ Passed **11-bill legislative package** to address persistent racial disparities in maternal and birthing health, including by establishing a free doula program in underserved communities.
- ◆ Declared maternal mortality a **public health emergency** and convened a **Maternal Health Steering Committee**, made up of advocates, medical providers, healthcare unions, and elected officials, to advance actions that confront the drivers of maternal health disparities. The Council subsequently passed a **package of legislation** to advance the Steering Committee's solutions.
- ◆ Passed two other sets of new laws to **strengthen maternal health support** for birthing people before, during, and after pregnancy and improve transparency of maternal mortality information.
- ◆ Approved the **NYC Abortion Rights Act**, following the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade, to safeguard and expand abortion and reproductive health care.
- ◆ Allocated the **largest commitment of municipal funds** by any city in the nation to fund abortion care, supporting access for people who are unable to afford care.
- ◆ Enacted a comprehensive set of **menstrual equity laws** to expand access to products in city facilities.

Tackling the Mental Health Crisis with Key Solutions

Launched the Council's **Mental Health Roadmap**, which focused on expanding preventive, evidence-based solutions in communities that can improve mental health and wellness, in partnership with mental health advocates and providers.

◆ **STOP 1: Preventive Services, Workforce, Awareness and Coordination**

Advanced new laws that expanded Crisis Respite Centers and clubhouses throughout the five boroughs, while increasing coordination, public awareness efforts, and solutions to workforce shortages.

◇ **Established a new CUNY Social Work Fellows Program** as a model to address the severe mental health workforce shortage that impedes access to care. By reducing financial barriers to professional graduate programs for public service-focused social workers, the program can help strengthen the pipeline of diverse social workers entering and remaining in frontline public-interest mental health jobs. The Council doubled funding in the program's second year to expand its reach, and it can be further increased to meet the scale of need, similar to how NYC Teaching Fellows grew the number of public school teachers.

◆ **STOP 2: Veterans Mental Health**

Enacted new laws to improve mental health services for veterans, including requirements to strengthen outreach and public education on available mental health resources and improve demographic data collection to enhance services.

◆ **STOP 3: Maternal Mental Health**

Passed new laws to expand access to maternal mental health services during and after pregnancy, addressing one of the leading causes of maternal mortality.

◆ **STOP 4: Youth Mental Health**

Approved package of new laws to expand youth mental health programs by strengthening peer-based models that empowers students to navigate mental health issues through student wellness clubs, peer-to-peer training, and access to additional mental health professionals.

◆ **STOP 5: Youth in Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Systems**

Advanced new laws to make the innovative Fair Futures program that supports foster youth permanent under city law, improve data collection on foster youth to enhance service delivery, and require evidence-based training for staff in juvenile detention facilities.

- ◆ Secured funding to maintain the operations of several smaller mental health clubhouses to provide individualized care grounded in a community-centered approach and support New Yorkers with serious mental illness, following the elimination of their funding by the mayor.

Improving Climate Resiliency

- ◆ Approved the **Zero Waste Act**, a legislative package to advance the City's efforts to divert organic waste from landfills, fighting climate change to create a more sustainable future.
- ◆ Enacted new law **expediting the phase out of oil grade No. 4**, which is the most harmful heating oil still used in city buildings, to create cleaner air and reduce negative health outcomes especially felt in environmental justice communities.
- ◆ Decreased unnecessary plastic waste by passing the **Skip the Stuff Act** to reduce the provision of plastic eating utensils, condiment packets, napkins and extra containers in food orders, and **passed legislation** requiring sporting venues to allow fans to enter with reusable beverage containers.
- ◆ Passed new law that made NYC the largest municipality in the nation to require a **zero-emission vehicle fleet**.
- ◆ Created interagency taskforce to **address flooding in Southeast Queens**.
- ◆ Enacted new law to require the city's first **redesign of its truck route network** in over four decades for improved health and safety outcomes from reduced truck traffic congestion.

Bolstering Oversight and Accountability

New Yorkers rely on their city government to meet challenges effectively, with transparency, accountability, and integrity as the hallmarks of good governance. Trust in city government depends on agencies that are accountable and can efficiently deliver essential services. In recent years, corruption and chaos in City Hall, paired with the City's diminished ability to tackle persistent problems, has weakened public confidence. Under Speaker Adams' leadership, the Council has acted to restore confidence in city government through stronger oversight, improved accountability and transparency, and a renewed focus on good governance and public partnership.

Enhancing Accountability

- ◆ Required an **official investigation to uncover any concealed information** available to mayoral administrations about the environmental toxins produced by the September 11 attacks.
- ◆ Advanced new laws to **increase transparency** about delayed or impeded inspector general investigations into NYPD, curb **discriminatory enforcement** of jaywalking, provide **access to encrypted radio transmissions** for emergency responders and journalists, require direct access to police body camera footage for the Civilian Complaint Review Board, and protect minors from nonconsensual DNA collection.
- ◆ Enacted new laws to **strengthen oversight and transparency** of NYPD's use of surveillance technology, consistent with the POST Act.
- ◆ Established one of the first **comprehensive municipal frameworks** in the nation designed to bring oversight, accountability, and transparency to the City's use of artificial intelligence (AI) and automated decision systems (ADS).
- ◆ Enacted a package of laws requiring acknowledgement, study, and actions to address **the legacy and impacts of slavery and racial injustices** in New York City.

- ◆ Expanded **oversight and accountability** within the City's foster care system for young people, including LGBTQ+ youth who are disproportionately represented and often face the significant challenges of discrimination, inadequate support, and increased risk of homelessness.
- ◆ Enacted new law to provide parents and guardians with information about access to **legal services at the onset of ACS investigations**.
- ◆ Approved a series of new laws that require **evaluation of local community hiring** and benefits of economic development projects for residents in low-income communities and **greater transparency** for other economic, employment, and housing outcomes.

Advancing Good Governance

- ◆ Launched new **Agency Report Card initiative** to evaluate each agency's effective and efficient service to New Yorkers and provide recommendations for improvements. The initial assessments conducted were for the **Department of Veteran Services**, **Department of Parks and Recreation**, and **Department of Youth and Community Development**.
- ◆ Enacted new laws to **reform the City's contracting** and payment processes to address longstanding problems of **chronically delayed payments** for nonprofits delivering critical services to New Yorkers.
- ◆ Launched a **new discretionary funding pilot initiative** with the mayoral administration to accelerate payments for certain nonprofit organizations by replacing the lengthy contracting process with streamlined direct grant agreements.
- ◆ Enacted a new law increasing Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request **accountability and transparency** by requiring a centralized portal for requests that allows public tracking.



Speaker Adrienne Adams joins rally on legislation to fix longstanding issue of delayed payments to NYC nonprofits. April 30, 2025

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