

Assemblymember

PHARA SOUFFRANT FORREST



Summer 2024



Letter from Phara

Dear neighbors,

As the warm embrace of summer settles over our neighborhoods of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and Crown Heights, I am filled with immense gratitude for the privilege of representing you as your New York State Assemblymember for District 57.

The sun-drenched streets of our district are alive with the spirit of community, resilience, and hope. From the vibrant block parties to the bustling farmers' markets, this season is a reminder of the beauty and strength that lies within our community.

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Assemblymember Forrest at a rally calling for congestion pricing implementation and accessibility upgrades at the Nostrand Avenue A/C station

Letter from Phara

(cont. from page 1)

Together, we have fought tirelessly for the values that define us - affordable housing, accessible health care, public transit, and reforming our criminal justice system. Your unwavering support and passion have been the driving force behind our progress, and I am humbled by the opportunity to stand alongside you in this journey.

This summer, as we come together to celebrate the joys of the season, let us also recommit ourselves to the work that lies ahead. Your voices are essential in shaping the future we envision for ourselves and future generations. I am profoundly grateful for the activism, dedication, and solidarity you continue to show in our shared quest for a more just and equitable society.

Your commitment to change inspires me every day, and I am honored to serve as your voice in Albany. As we savor the long days and warm nights of summer, may we find moments of peace, joy, and connection with our loved ones. Together I know we can overcome any challenge and build a brighter future for all.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or requests, please contact my office at 718-596-0100 or ad57@nyassembly.gov.

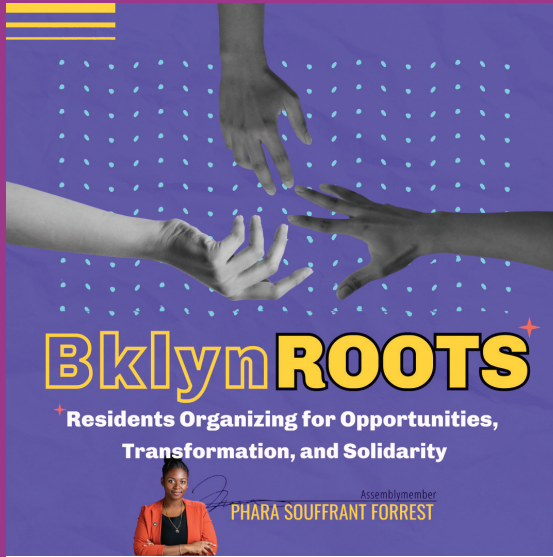
In solidarity,



Phara



Brooklyn ROOTS: Class of 2025



We are thrilled to announce the return of Bklyn ROOTS: Residents Organizing for Opportunities, Transformation, and Solidarity. ROOTS is a grassroots training program specifically designed for constituents in Assembly District 57 to develop their leadership and organizing skills. This exciting initiative aims to empower individuals within our district by equipping them with the necessary skills, tools, and resources to drive positive change in their communities.

The training program will cover a wide range of topics, including building coalitions, organizing communities, grassroots campaigning, legislative advocacy, and more. Participants will also gain a deep understanding of social justice issues, equipping them to meaningfully address the systemic challenges faced by our communities. Through Bklyn ROOTS, we aim to create a network of passionate community leaders who are committed to driving transformative change in Assembly District 57.

We firmly believe that the real power for change lies within our communities, with the people who are directly affected, and with the working class. With Bklyn ROOTS, we are dedicated to nurturing and empowering the next generation of community leaders and organizers who will shape the future of our district. Together, we will create a strong, united, and resilient community that champions equity, justice, and opportunity for all.



September 14, 2024

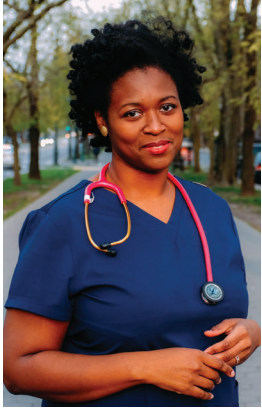
September 21, 2024

September 28, 2024

October 5, 2024

Apply at bit.ly/BKROOTS24

Delivering for AD57: Insulin for All



As many of you know, I was a nurse before being elected to represent you all in the Assembly. So one of the things I'm most proud of from this year is that my bill (A.4141) to eliminate insulin copays passed as part of this year's budget! This first-of-its-kind groundbreaking piece of legislation will make New York the first state in the country to completely eliminate copays for insulin prescriptions for anyone with a state-regulated insurance plan, ultimately saving millions of dollars and countless lives.

It was an honor and a joy to lead this fight alongside Senator Gustavo Rivera, advocacy organizations like the American Diabetes Association and the AARP, patients, and health care practitioners. The bill will kick in on January 1st next year. I look forward to going back to Albany next year and continuing the fight to make sure health care is a right!



AD57 STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2024



In April, I held my State of the District event for AD57 at St Francis de Sales School for the Deaf. This was an opportunity to join with all of you, my neighbors and constituents, and reflect on the recent past as your Assemblymember, as well as look forward to a brighter future for our beloved district.



Thank you to everyone who came out to join me at this event, from fellow elected officials, to community leaders, to advocates and entrepreneurs, friends and family and neighbors: you are why I do this job. Over the course of the evening we reflected on the legislative and constituent work we have done this year in Albany, we recounted the progress we have made within our district to address our community's collective priorities, including housing, criminal justice reform, health care, and higher education, we celebrated and honored some of our community's guiding lights and leaders, we took in stunning performances from local artists, we ate and talked and laughed and celebrated.



As your elected official, I have fought tirelessly to truly represent, advocate, and empower all 140,000 residents of AD57, and I look forward to seeing you all in the district and having you join me in Albany to build a better future together!

COMMUNITY LEADERS

WALEEK BOONE

PASTOR ALEX WILLIAMS

BETTIE KING

ANNETTE ROBINSON

SOUL CREARY

NYCHA PRESIDENTS

TENANTS OF 285 EASTERN PKWY

ORGANIZATIONS

HOUSING JUSTICE FOR ALL

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

SAVE OUR STREETS

KINGS AGAINST VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

PHOENIX HOUSE

A LITTLE PIECE OF LIGHT

LOCAL ARTISTS

MS. CASSANDRA DOUGLAS

THE AFRO-LATIN JAZZ ALLIANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS

FLANBO DANCERS

IFETAYO

VOLUNTEERS

PHOENIX BUI

TERESA COOMBS

DEVYN FUSARO

LAUREN GNIAZDOWSKI

MAYA MEREDITH

CASSANDRA NEYENESCH

PAULA SHORTER

DANIEL WHITE

VICKI WINTERS



At Community Board 9's annual resource fair in Crown Heights

We have many volunteer opportunities for interested residents! Our volunteers help with everything from canvasses and phone banks to office work and constituent support. In addition, my office is now hosting a monthly housing clinic for constituents who need legal support with housing issues.

To join an event or volunteer with our office, visit bit.ly/pharaoutreach.

For assistance with any other issues, please reach out to our district office! We are open 10 am-5 pm Monday-Friday.

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ad57@nyassembly.gov

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248

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District Edition, Summer 2024



Assembly Member
**Phara
Souffrant Forrest**

FIGHTING FOR YOU!

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**Community Development:
1024 Fulton Street**

Many of you are familiar with the vacant building at 1024 Fulton Street, between Classon and Grand Avenues. This state-owned property has been unused for decades despite multiple attempts to develop it. I am happy to say that this year we helped allocate money in the state budget to demolish the existing structure at 1024 Fulton Street!

Although this site has long been vacant, we know that with deep collaboration and commitment we can turn it into a resource for the people of Clinton Hill. This fall, we hope to host a series of community meetings to hear from you about what you would like to see on the site. Please stay tuned for more information!

