



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2023 Candidate Questionnaire

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Office Sought: City Council District 39

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Name of person filling out this questionnaire: Shahana Hanif

1) If (re-)elected, what would be your top priority or priorities in your term?

I'm looking forward to returning to City Hall to continue fighting for the anti-racist and feminist values that my community elected me on in 2021. Specifically, my priorities would start with ensuring our immigrant and asylum seeker communities continue to have a strong advocate in City Hall. In term, I was proud to highlight some of the most pressing issues facing immigrants in our City from ICE detention practices upstate to forcing the administration to abandon its plans for an outdoor tent city for asylum seekers. Second, I want to continue to organize with groups like The People's Plan and the Council's Progressive Caucus to ensure we have budget justice in New York City. This work has proved difficult, but I know we have the talent and courage to pass a budget at City Hall that puts care and compassion first and strengthens investments in public education, libraries, and CUNY. Finally, I want to expand my efforts on delivering for my constituents in District 39. That means everything from ensuring we're delivering high quality constituent services to working with the Department of Transportation to make much needed street safety improvements. At the start of 2023, I declared that the 9th Street corridor where Sarah Schick was killed would be my top street safety priority.

2) What personal and/or professional experiences do you believe make you uniquely qualified to run for City Council?

After 9/11, the Patriot Act and expansion of Homeland Security Departments across the United States brought on a wave of targeting and surveillance upon Muslim community organizations, campuses, and mosques. Young Muslim women across CUNY campuses were entrapped by undercover FBI officers, while families who did not speak English or know their rights were actively disenfranchised and deported at alarming rates. In the wake of this racial and xenophobic violence, I co-founded the Muslim Writers Collective which cultivated a powerful space for organizing young Muslims across NYC and the US to share their stories and strategies for resilience and joy. Needless to say, our advocacy raised security concerns and threats impacted our organizing. Carceral surveillance is an everyday reality for Muslim Americans like me, and even more so for Muslim women activists and organizers at the forefront of issues impacting our communities.

While building Muslim power across our City, I spearheaded CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities' Public Housing Organizing Project where I organized working-class, limited English proficient Asian immigrant public housing residents. I primarily organized Bangladeshi residents at Queensbridge Houses, which led to the creation of a Bangladeshi tenant's association headed by Bangladeshi women tenant leaders who taught me the Bangla proverb, 'dosher lathi eker bojha': *the easy work of ten is difficult for one*. They taught me movement accountability. We leaned on each other to get through some of the most brutal moments in NYC's housing justice movement and celebrated our wins, including when my work at CAAAV amounted to the first-ever report released on Asians living in public housing and our fight for language justice.

Between 2017-2020 I worked at District 39 Council Member Brad Lander's office as the Director of Organizing and Community Engagement. As part of my portfolio, I led Participatory Budgeting which has led to critical and creative reinvestments in our schools, streets, and parks conceived of and voted on by the people in my district, and is one of the few ways all New Yorkers, regardless of age or citizenship status, are



able to meaningfully engage in civic life. Participatory Budgeting is not an excuse for austerity budgets and is not perfect - and like other forms of democracy can unintentionally amplify the voices of more powerful, affluent, and white populations - but I have been intentional about centering marginalized voices in the PB process, and transferring power to youth and women of color in my district.

While all of these experiences before taking office prepared me for my first term, my experiences during my first two years in City Hall have greatly prepared me to continue this fight for justice in our City. During my first term in office, voters have gotten a clear picture of our office's vision for a Brooklyn rooted in joy and care. From our work to ensure asylum seekers are welcomed with dignity, to reinstate NYC as a safe haven for reproductive and abortion care, and bringing in millions of dollars to my district's parks and plazas, schools, and community organizations, we've demonstrated our commitment to care and compassion in our communities. I have stood by working people and working families to advance universal childcare, protections for workers and tenants, a future that is environmentally just and livable, and a City that does not abandon communities on the margins. As the only Muslim in the Council, I've called on the NYPD's Counterterrorism Chief John Miller to publicly acknowledge and apologize on behalf of the City for administering the Muslim surveillance program post-9/11. He denied the existence of any such program, and the Muslim community's subsequent pressure got him fired from his post. As co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, I've been a leading voice in the fight to end solitary confinement on Rikers Island and know that we will get this to the finish line. I've strengthened my relationships with progressive organizations, including the Working Families Party, to build a powerful coalition to continue organizing and winning during an uptick in right wing forces in Brooklyn. We have more to do, and I look forward to the fight and resistance ahead.

3) List all of your endorsements, including but not limited to elected officials, unions, political clubs and community-based organizations.

The endorsements process has just begun! So far I've received an endorsement from Run for Something. I will share updates on forthcoming endorsements.

4) What, if any, groups or industries will you not accept campaign contributions from? If any, please note specifically whose money you will not accept.

I do not accept any campaign contributions from corporate PACs, real estate developers, corporate lobbyists, police unions, fossil fuel companies, and charter schools.

5) What do you think of the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2024 preliminary budget? What actions do you plan with respect to this budget? How do you propose helping NYC recover from the COVID pandemic and resulting economic downturn, particularly given the projected shortfall in city revenue?

The Mayor's 2024 budget is an extension of the austerity budget he rammed through in 2023. He is continuing to demand cuts even though our City's revenue forecast is better than expected. Key to defeating this budget will be a coordinated inside-outside strategy involving key progressive groups and council members united in a common vision.

During my first term in office, I proudly organized with The People's Plan coalition to help achieve real progressive victories in City Hall. The work has been challenging and progressive bloc building has not been as easy as it might seem, but it's critical to creating a City livable for working-class people and working families. Key to this work is building out durable co-governance structures in The People's Plan and with member organizations. Over the last year we've been focused on bringing together a solid group of Council Members to coalesce around important votes and show up to speak out against the Mayor's austerity budgets. I am excited by this partnership and looking forward to continuing to organize together.

While this kind of organizing work around the budget is key to ensuring an equitable recovery from the multiple public health crises we have faced over the past few years, it is not the end all be of our work. Addressing the impacts of COVID-19 involves both acknowledging that COVID-19 is still a threat to our



vulnerable neighbors, and dealing with the deep-seated inequality that COVID-19 exacerbated. To start, our City needs to maintain its free mask, testing, and vaccine program for as long as COVID-19 is a threat. Additionally, we need flexible public health policies that allow for the reintroduction of masking and testing requirements when there are significant spikes in the caseload. During this most recent winter surge, I was proud to call for the reintroduction of mask mandates to keep New York City safe and healthy. On the economic side, there are still far too many people and small businesses that are struggling to recover from the worst impacts of the pandemic. Our City should explore new grants and support systems for struggling small businesses, with a specific focus on cash grants for businesses owned by immigrants. Additionally, we know our immigrant communities were hit worst by the impacts of COVID-19 and so we should explore municipal programs to offer direct cash assistance or targeted recovery programs, such as rental assistance or paycheck protection programs. I also believe if our City is to truly recover, we need some form of extended rental assistance. That could mean either direct support to tenants that have fallen behind, such as a municipal ERAP program, or finding a way to reduce rents through an expanded municipal rent control program.

6) What measures would you take to improve educational opportunities for all students in NYC? How do you plan to ensure that all NYC children are able to attend high-quality, integrated schools?

Quality education should be close to home, integrated, and rooted in community. Rather than focusing efforts onto piloting different combinations of screens and lotteries, we should address the systemic inequities throughout our public-school system. Redistricting, instituting culturally responsive pedagogy, recruiting and retaining teachers of color, and capping PTA fundraising or distributing unequal fundraising are all tangible steps the City Council can take to make the City's K-12 public education system more equitable and inclusive. We need to desegregate our schools by changing the admissions process. Black and Latinx teens make up almost 70% of high schoolers in NYC, but only 10% of spots at specialized high schools. Admissions screens are discriminatory. The current screens are perpetuating and exacerbating segregation because they focus on arbitrary and classist metrics like tardiness, which alone weeds out over 40% of Black students and almost 40% of Latinx students. Other screens, like absences, standardized test scores, and ELA scores, largely disadvantage low-income students, students of color, and students who speak English as a second language. To achieve real equity and a desegregated public-school system, I support eliminating standardized admissions exams and screens from the admissions process for our public schools.

I am supportive of the D15 diversity plan, and want increased oversight on the demands to ensure that they are being met equitably. While the current administration is looking to roll back these inventive admissions policies and community informed school planning, I remain committed to ensuring our school policies are reducing segregation not enforcing it. The D15 Diversity Plan reminds us of the need for connecting classroom curriculum to the lived experiences of diverse student bodies. Culturally Responsive Pedagogy (CRP) is facilitative, cooperative, emotionally affirming, and participatory. It is a method of community building (empowering students and parents alike), and a more equitable education model, through affirming the strengths inherent to racial, cultural, and socioeconomic differences within the classroom. The goal of culturally responsive pedagogy is to "produce students who can achieve academically, demonstrate cultural competence, and develop students who can both understand and critique the existing social order" (Gloria Ladson-Billings). The DOE currently implements some CRP strategies, but CRP should be creatively monitored, accept student feedback, and feature facilitated workshops between school teachers and community members to develop best CRP practices and school wide curriculum resources. It is crucial to ensure that all courses provided to our students follow a culturally responsive pedagogy that is inclusive of all identities and histories. For example, sex education should be inclusive of LGBTQ+ identities and culturally informed, history should incorporate more narratives about Black, Indigenous, Peoples of Color and LGBTQ+ folks. Physical education should also be more inclusive of abilities and body types.

7) Do you support any campaign finance reforms for NYC? If so, please describe.



I will support any reform that will allow more candidates to run for public office - particularly candidates who are parents, working class, disabled and New Americans. This also means equitable care for campaign staff, particularly guaranteed healthcare and pay for staff, volunteers, and interns.

8) The MTA is facing a significant revenue shortfall and many parts of the city lack access to reliable public transportation. What measures would you implement and/or enforce, to promote safe, efficient, and accessible transportation options for mass transit users, pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers in Brooklyn?

Transportation accessibility is personal for me as a Lupus survivor and a person with disabilities. While navigating Lupus as a 17-year-old, I applied for Access-A-Ride and was denied. This rejection meant I had no choice but to use our inaccessible public transportation and go up and down the stairs of subway stations without elevators and escalators as a disabled woman or pay for car service before ridesharing apps like Uber and Lyft were created. Due to prohibitive rules, I had to wait a year before I could reapply for paratransit. However, when I re-applied and was approved for Access-A-Ride, I witnessed a slew of challenges with the unreliable service. I stopped using AAR and was forced to map out every station with elevators to get around the City. I couldn't fathom why it was so complicated to obtain basic and critical City services, like public transportation, that would have made getting care at hospitals and a chance at continuing my education in college easier for my survival. It's as if the City didn't want me to survive.

Subways and buses are not accessible for most New Yorkers. District 39 has above ground subway stations with steep stairways and it is important to advocate for more accessible entrance ways. We need to ensure our stations are equipped with elevators and other infrastructure to increase accessibility such as elevators at the 7th Avenue Station (I am proud that construction is underway for the elevators our community fought for). In addition, it is important to also decrease transportation deserts within the district. As Council Member, I will work with the Department of Transportation and other agencies to bring back the B71 bus to bring more transit options into transit desert pockets. Accessibility also means decreasing the cost of public transportation - I realize this is near-impossible through the role of City Council alone, but economic justice is central to my transit advocacy.

Additionally, we need to look into greener solutions to transit, especially as we are in the midst of a climate crisis. Biking is an amazing green alternative; however, it is not accessible for all. As someone who has both arm and hip replacements, biking in the district and the City overall can be dangerous and falling and collapsing is a huge fear of mine. I was too afraid to bike on our streets because the City does not have adequate bike lanes, some streets are unpaved and others are known death traps. As Council Member, I aim to make biking more accessible and safer for all New Yorkers. I will work with the DOT to construct protected bike lanes throughout the district, particularly in Borough Park, a Priority Bicycle district, or area with high incidents of bicycle injuries or fatalities. In addition, I will work to fund bike shares and community education that is language accessible and culturally informed around biking. Bike cooperatives and cycling community education was a huge reason why I gained confidence in cycling in the City.

Making streets more pedestrian-friendly also means revitalizing our plaza programming, working with urban designers to implement traffic calming mechanisms like street trees, increasing open streets programming, and decreasing the presence of police in our streets and public spaces. This also means supporting food and drink vendors (financially and legislatively), block parties, plantings, community art, seating, and safe access to play spaces. Pedestrian friendly streets are also safer for drivers, and more careful planning will ultimately decrease congestion and traffic incidents.

9) How would you ensure that underserved communities receive fair and equitable treatment from city government? What policies do you support that would level the playing field for historically marginalized groups?



First and foremost, it is crucial for the City Council to center those who have been historically impacted by racist and unjust policies. The Council has a unique role in the City as it is a legislative body and the point of contact for direct and grassroots constituent services work. It is the most constituent-present role among the other citywide roles wherein the Council Member is directly on the ground within the geographical area of the district. This makes the City Council a more community-based role and therefore, the Council has an important role to be radical advocates for constituents of their district in legislative matters. We need to ensure that we actively speak to and work alongside community advocates and local grassroots organizations and incorporate their recommendations when creating policy.

Secondly, we have to expand opportunities for civic engagement for underserved New Yorkers through expanding language access. Language access is crucial to ensure that all New Yorkers get the resources and services they need and allow them to actively participate in civic life, such as being able to engage at Council hearings, community board meetings, and town halls. As Council Member, I'm committed to continuing language accessible services and legal aid both as a means to get vital immigration-related information (like when a judge blocked changes made by the Trump administration to fee waiver rules) to my community in Bangla and challenge voter suppression by helping community members on their path to citizenship or bring them into the campaign to fight for noncitizen voting access in municipal elections. Additionally, as Council Member, I aim to make PTAs and Community Board participation more accessible by paying folks for their involvement, providing an option for remote meetings/voting, and providing childcare.

“Leveling the playing field” for historically marginalized groups also means opening the pipeline for more BIPOC, working class, and immigrant New Yorkers to work in government and eventually run for office. The most impactful way to open up the pipeline is to pay all government interns and to provide staff, especially BIPOC staff a living wage. Unpaid internships and low salaries often deter BIPOC, working class, and immigrant folks from seeking these positions yet, government internships and jobs are a way to influence change within the government while gaining skills, connections, and experience to run for office. As Council Member, I commit to paying my interns and paying my staff a living wage.

10) How would you ensure fairness in employment, salary, workplace conditions, and promotion? What is your position on strengthening and increasing access to union membership?

On fairness in employment: a central facet of my campaign advocacy is my platform to protect gig workers throughout the City. While I recognize that worker reclassification efforts have to happen at the State and Federal levels, the City has the power to extend many benefits to independent contractors, not limited to Just Cause, paid sick leave, and minimum wage. For example, workers in the taxi industry (including for-hire vehicle and rideshare drivers) are the backbone of our City, and have been providing continued support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic despite our City failing to protect drivers with health and pension funds, or even basic PPE. Especially because private tech companies like Uber and Lyft deny workers' protections (like healthcare, strong anti-harassment and discrimination policies, and paid sick leave) through refusing to recognize drivers as employees, City Council must protect the health, safety, and well-being of taxi workers and all gig workers during COVID-19 and beyond. I am committed to working with colleagues in the State and Assembly to provide gig workers with labor protections and benefits through reclassification as employees, not independent contractors. I will also advocate to provide independent drivers with healthcare and pension funds. I will work to expand access to legal resources for my independent worker constituents, particularly through my constituent services arm, focusing on Know Your Rights events, and in partnership with folks already doing this work, like New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA).

On strengthening and increasing access to union membership: As Council Member, I will support union organizing through advancing policies such as creating a workers' bill of rights that covers gig and independent workers, and includes protections for undocumented employees. I will push for legislation



creating legal protections for workers that protect them from retaliation and harassment from employers for organizing or joining unions. I will also call for Council hearings on job safety, particularly during COVID-19, and use those hearings to push for increased staffing, training, fair scheduling, and other measures to make sure New Yorkers are returning to safe work environments. I will also leverage my visibility as Council Member to put pressure on union-busting employers. I will stand outside storefronts in solidarity with workers. I will also work with my colleagues in the Council and organize sign-on letters to support our constituents and labor allies. I will also mobilize my office's constituent services arm to host workshops on union organizing for constituents, with Know Your Rights trainings and lessons learned from successful union fights within our District.

On City Council unionization: During my time in the City Council, I joined my first union, the New York City Council Union - Association for Legislative Employees. Together with my colleagues I fought for City Council staffers to be unionized. I've learned how challenging it is to do so, and as Council Member I will fight to protect my staffers' right to be unionized.

I have also strengthened my ties to unions for pay equity in nursing with NYSNA, a livable contract for Sodexo cafeteria workers and adjunct professors at The New School with Unite Here! Local 100 and UAW Local 7902, respectively.

11) What policy and administrative changes are needed for NYC government to ensure sufficient quality housing that is actually affordable for existing residents in Brooklyn neighborhoods? Do you have a plan to reduce and prevent homelessness in Brooklyn and NYC? Explain your plan.

Relying on private developments and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) to create affordable housing has not been effective. The current MIH policy and other affordable housing mechanisms do not allow many New Yorkers, especially working-class New Yorkers, to have access to permanent, safe, affordable housing. As City Council Member, I will ensure that the City uses a social housing model through the use of community land trusts (CLTs) to create truly affordable housing and to prioritize the preservation of our public housing stock, especially our NYCHA developments.

In order for housing for all New Yorkers to be truly affordable, it must be social, decommodified, and center true democratic resident control. Community land trusts (CLTs) best represent social housing for the City. We must effectively utilize vacant lots and vacant/foreclosed buildings in the City to create CLTs run by community members. CLTs are a promising way of investing back in Black, brown, Indigenous communities, and working families - as they aim to provide long-term homeownership and generational wealth. The Council can provide much needed long-term and stable funding to CLTs, recruit diverse homeowners, help organize residents to learn about their rights as homeowners, and require cooperatives/CLTs to reveal their rationale behind rejections to ensure non-discriminatory practices. In addition, as Council Member, I would propose abolishing the Giuliani tax lien sale law to ensure that sales of foreclosed properties do not prioritize private developers and instead, properties can be considered as spaces for CLTs. Additionally, I will also work with my colleagues in the State Legislature to implement a 100 percent affordable housing plan through the use of social housing that is bought and managed by the State.

With my colleague Council Member Pierina Sanchez I've introduced legislation to remove the 90-days currently required for shelter residents to qualify for a CityFHEPS voucher. We've also introduced legislation that would expand CityFHEPS for undocumented people and asylum seekers. Currently, they are excluded from the voucher program. These are critical policy fixes that would guarantee housing to our most vulnerable.



12) What policies would you pass or enforce to ensure public housing/NYCHA repair, upkeep and security, and access to alternate housing and services when lacking essentials such as heat, gas, electricity, etc.

The City must work to improve the infrastructure of NYCHA buildings. While Participatory Budgeting (PB) has provided a tiny funding stream to repair NYCHA buildings and should continue to be used, the funds that are currently available through PB are simply not enough to address billions of dollars of immediate improvements that are needed. Capital funding allocated to NYCHA should be increased with an accountability and watchdogging process to ensure repairs are actually made.

The City should take advantage of other funding streams, such as taxing millionaires and billionaires. Putting public housing on the market does not guarantee that these homes will remain affordable and public for New Yorkers in the long run, especially as the housing market becomes increasingly competitive. RAD and privatizing NYCHA is reminiscent of how many of the City's Mitchell Lama units were converted into private housing. To ensure we have true affordable housing, the City needs to work towards more social housing that is equitable, tenant led, and affordable for New Yorkers.

As Council Member, I will continue to work closely with State and Federal elected officials to allocate and secure funding for improvements in NYCHA developments. In the newly drawn 39th District, I will now represent three NYCHA developments. My biggest priority is making sure that the \$200 million commitment to the developments in the Gowanus Rezoning are delivered expeditiously.

13) Describe your vision for public safety in New York City? What, if any, functions would you like to see removed from the police department? What agencies would assume the functions removed from the NYPD?

As a lifelong Brooklyn resident, I have seen the disproportionate consequences of the criminal justice system on Black and Brown communities. While I was a student at Brooklyn College, an undercover police officer spied on and surveilled Muslim students on campus. This incident is an example of unjust policing that I have witnessed as a part of my upbringing in Brooklyn. As an alum, I continue to work with the Brooklyn College community in their Anti-Racist Coalition, which was created to challenge systemic injustices towards Black and Brown students on campus. I was involved as an activist with CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities in New York and in 2014, I worked with the organization to condemn the actions of police officer Peter Liang for his involvement in Akai Gurley's death in East New York.

I support defunding and demilitarizing the NYPD, and reallocating funds towards critical community needs, like reallocating funding to expand mental health services, youth programming, affordable housing, and invest in our public schools and colleges. I've successfully advocated to fund new initiatives such as Care For All- \$10M for childcare for undocumented families, the Abortion Access Fund- \$1M for people seeking abortions in NYC, worker cooperative for translation and interpretation, \$5M for community based language services, and adult literacy- \$6.7M expansion to meet increased needs of immigrant communities.

I am also invested in pulling money away from surveillance technology used to separate families and deport community members to militarized equipment used against protestors to school safety officers. In NYC public schools, there are more SSOs than guidance counselors, social workers, and nurses combined. The activities I would immediately shift away from the NYPD are 1) intervening in immediate mental health crises, 2) responding to homeless services, 3) enforcing traffic laws, 4) resolving neighborhood quality of life issues (ex. noise complaints, loitering, etc.), 5) dealing with situations in school involving disputes and discipline, and 6) de-escalating situations of domestic violence. These changes would shift funds away from the bloated NYPD budget and into other crucial agencies and public services deeply in need of more funding. I support removing police from schools, mental health responses, homeless outreach, domestic violence, child welfare,



and other social services. By expanding the NYPD's role in the city's social services, we are facilitating state violence and the escalation of conflict— rather than remedying any problems at hand. Funneling these tasks to the notoriously opaque NYPD also limit the public's ability to shape how we build and deliver public services. Allowing the NYPD to have any role in the social sector simply puts our collective resources towards the perpetuation of violence, racism, and classism — without ever getting close to addressing the root causes of instability and poverty.

14) Do you support changes to the ULURP process and to other NYC zoning mechanisms? If so, what specific changes do you support?

The City's current land use approval process is exclusionary and does not consider marginalized voices, specifically BIPOC voices, immigrant voices, and voices from the working-class. The ULURP timeline is not reflective of the planning and negotiations needed to make a thoughtful decision for the community and its people. Local residents, who are on community boards and attend these meetings, are doing the work on a volunteer basis and may not have the time and resources to devote to planning sessions like private developers do. This results in a lot of land use decisions being approved without careful planning that is considerate of community needs.

As it stands right now, ULURP is a system that forces neighbors to react to individual proposals from the Mayor and corporate developer interests instead of providing communities the opportunity to proactively plan for what THEY want to see in their communities. I will be advocating for a community-led comprehensive plan so that individual ULURP actions could instead be first and foremost measured against whether the application furthers the community's vision for the neighborhood. I firmly believe moving away from ULURP and adopting a comprehensive land use process is the only way to achieve the vision for affordability I know New Yorkers want.

15) Following the Dobbs decision, what steps do you think the City Council should take to increase reproductive healthcare access and to so equitably?

Even before Dobbs, New York has led the way on abortion rights. We were one of the few states before Roe to allow abortion on request for people in our State and across the country. New York has always been a safe haven for people seeking reproductive care and now in the post-Roe world, that role is ever more critical. I was proud in my first year as Council Member to pass landmark abortion rights legislation to create a civil right to action for people who obtain abortions in New York and are unjustly sued in their anti-choice home states, as well as legislation to mandate a comprehensive public information campaign so people in our City know their reproductive rights. I was also proud to secure a historic \$1 million in funding for the New York Abortion Access Fund and The Brigid Alliance to help cover the procedural and practical support costs associated for people seeking abortions in our City. We've done a lot in our City to strengthen abortion rights in the past year and will continue to explore new options in the future. This means ensuring the funding we won in the aftermath of Dobbs is sustained and expanded, as well as ensuring abortion rights are not just protected but expanded in every sense of the world. That means not just ensuring the right to reproductive care, but the right to do so without harassment or interference.

16) What is your position on the Mayor's plan to restructure medical benefits to a Medicare Advantage Plan for all past and present NYC teachers and other municipal workers? What actions do you propose to take with respect to this plan?

As a proud proponent of Medicare-For-All and the New York Health Act, I cannot and will not support measures at any level of government that increase the costs, especially while reducing the quality of care, of healthcare. I was proud to be one of the few Council Members that spoke out publicly when the bill was introduced in the Council and continue to be a vocal opponent of the Mayor's plan to privatize healthcare for our City's retirees. I will vote no on the legislation if it comes to the Council for a vote and will organize with other Council Members to defeat this legislation if need be.