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THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
JUSTIN BRANNAN
COUNCIL MEMBER
43RD DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

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YOUTH SERVICES

January 14, 2021

Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

We write to urge you to open vaccination sites in Southern Brooklyn.

As you may be aware, we represent Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), and neighborhoods with a significant population of low-income seniors. Since vaccinations began, we have heard from countless seniors who are desperate to get the vaccine. However, the lack of nearby vaccination sites in Southern Brooklyn is presenting a major hurdle.

The current map of major vaccination sites has created a vaccination desert between the Brooklyn Army Terminal and Coney Island Hospital. Most of our senior constituents do not drive, and many live on their own without the assistance of family members. They cannot drive to either site, and they are not willing to risk a long trip on public transportation because of their vulnerable high-risk status. These seniors have been cooped up inside for the last year, avoiding human contact, and wanting desperately to get back to living without fear of COVID. But for them, the long trip to the nearest vaccination site simply isn't worth the risk.

Furthermore, there are parts of Southern Brooklyn where more a third or more of the residents lack internet access at home, and cannot easily locate their vaccination site. We must find easily accessed locations in our community that seniors know and trust if we are serious about vaccinating our most vulnerable.

We understand and appreciate that vaccination on this scale has never occurred before in New York City history. We also understand that vaccines are limited at this time, and we have asked for patience from our constituents as the system launches and as we await more vaccines from Washington D.C. However, knowing that more vaccines are on the horizon, we wish to work with you immediately to identify potential vaccination sites in our district, so that we are prepared when more vaccines do arrive. We need to be able to confidently inform our most vulnerable constituents that closer sites are on the way, so they can make an informed decision about how best to proceed with their lives and their healthcare.

Please let us know how we can partner with you to make this happen. We appreciate your time and your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Branann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Justin Branann
Councilmember, 43rd District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mathilde Frontus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mathilde Frontus
Assemblymember, 46th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Gounardes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Andrew Gounardes
State Senator, 22nd District