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Nineteenth Senatorial District

Senator Kevin Parker  
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Twentieth Senatorial District

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Fifth-Fifth Assembly District

Assemblyman Charles Barron  
Sixtieth Assembly District

Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte  
Forty-Second Assembly District

Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel  
Forty-First Council District

Council Member Mathieu Eugene  
Fortieth Council District

Council Member Farah Louis  
Forty-Fifth Council District

Council Member Inez Barron  
Forty-Second Council District

Council Member Robert Cornegy  
Thirty-Sixth Council District

Council Member Laurie Cumbo  
Thirty-Fifth Council District

Assemblywoman Diana Richardson  
Forty-Third Assembly District

Assemblywoman Mathylde Frontus  
Forty-Six Assembly District

## BROOKLYN BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS COALITION



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## BROOKLYN'S BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS CALL ON GOVERNOR, MAYOR TO CREATE SWEEPING REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES IN WAKE OF COVID-19

**BROOKLYN --** In a joint letter, 19 of Brooklyn's black elected officials are calling on Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio to implement a sweeping revitalization plan directed to the black communities who have suffered the most harm from COVID-19.

The proposed Elizabeth Jennings Graham Community Investment Plan (the "Lizzie Plan")<sup>1</sup>, would seek to involve the black community in the public response to the crisis and include plans for data collection, testing, personal protective equipment, and more.

"Black people are dying at a higher rate than the rest of New York while making up the majority of frontline workers keeping the state afloat," the letter reads. "This disproportionate impact demands a commensurate response and is why we write today to demand that New York immediately

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<sup>1</sup> In 1854, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Jennings Graham insisted on her right to ride on an available New York City streetcar at a time when all such companies were private and most operated segregated cars. Her case was decided in a Brooklyn court in her favor in 1855, and it led to the eventual desegregation of all New York City transit systems by 1865.

convene a task force to specifically address the Emergency, Relief, Recovery, and Rebuilding needs of black New Yorkers in Central and South Brooklyn.

“Thus far, black voices have been excluded from the decision-making in response to COVID-19,” the letter continues. “The convening of this task force, and subsequent adoption of the recommendations put forth by the Plan, seeks to rectify this injustice.”

The scope of the proposed task force would include:

- Specific and granular data on infection rates, hospitalizations, and deaths in the black community;
- Provision of PPE for all essential workers, many of whom are black;
- All manners of testing in black communities, including the testing of essential workers, the availability of rapid testing, and additional testing sites;
- Relief for black owned businesses;
- Resources specifically dedicated to food distribution in the black community;
- Housing affordability and stability for renters, homeowners, and property owners;
- Accountability for nursing homes;
- Consumer protections against rate hikes, negative credit reporting, garnishment, and debt collection;
- Relief for immigrants who, thus far, have been left out of relief efforts;
- Reforms to the criminal legal system, including the release of justice-impacted individuals at increased risk of infection;
- Bridging the digital divide, particularly in the context of education;
- Emergency Census outreach given the historical undercounts in black communities compounded by the current crisis.

According to state data, black people have made up 18 percent of statewide deaths from COVID-19 and make up only 9 percent of the population. Analysis of national census data [shows](#) that black workers are more likely to serve in essential services such as retail and transportation than white workers, with 37.7% of black workers working in “essential” services compared to 26.9% of white workers.

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