2022 Candidates Questionnaire for Harlem Assembly District 68

A. WHICH ARE YOUR TOP 5 PRIORITIES?

Lopez	Mapp	Gibbs	Miranda
Improve Safety of our Streets	**Improve Safety of our Streets**	**Improving the safety of our streets**	**Improve Safety of our Streets**
Improving NYCHA Housing Conditions	**Improving NYCHA Housing Conditions**	**Improving NYCHA Housing Conditions**	**Improving NYCHA Housing Conditions**
Reduce Gun Violence	**Reduce Gun Violence**	**Reduce Unemployment**	**Reduce Gun Violence**
Improve Quality of Public Schools	**Reduce Open-Air Drug Use**	**Improve Quality of Public Schools**	**Outreach to At Risk Youth**
Subsidizing Home-Ownership Opportunities	**Outreach to At Risk Youth**	**Adding Affordable Rental Housing**	**Adding Affordable Rental Housing**

B. YES/NO QUESTIONS:

Clean and safe environment:		Wilfredo	Tamika	Gibbs	Miranda
1	The New York Legislature passed bail reform in 2019 which eliminated cash bail and the judge's discretion of setting bail to most misdemeanor and nonviolent crimes. The state says this is to keep people out of jail as they wait for their day in court. Hence individuals get a desk ticket and come back out in a few hours. Do you agree with Governor Hokul's refinement made in April so the judge can consider if individuals might pose public safety risk (e.g., people with mental health issues, people with gun possession, have a history ... etc)?	N	Y	Y	N
2	Do you support Manhattan district attorney Alvin Bragg's effort to minimize prosecuting young adult below 25 years old as adult and reduce pre-trial incarceration?	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Do you agree that repeated trespassing, public encampment, public lewdness, small scale drug dealing, which are at least misdemeanor should be prosecuted by Manhattan district attorney?	Y	Y	N. Not in all cases	N
4	In 2017 Melissa Mark-Viverito of Harlem worked with Mayor De Blasio in New York City to decriminalize numerous behaviors such as public urination or littering, and in 2021, Governor Hochul decriminalized public use of hypodermic needles/syringes. Do you agree repeated offenders should be still arrested so as to be committed to incarceration alternative programs to compel them to seek drug treatment or perform community service?	Y	Y	N	N
5	Do you agree with the mayor's re-introduction of body camera wearing plain clothes police, or Neighborhood Safety Officers, in our community?	Y	N	Y	Y

6	Will you demand MTA to ask for more transportation options for the 1200+ shelter residents beyond just traveling via the M35 bus to go to 125th Street? For example buses can go to Astoria or South Bronx via the Triboro Bridge.	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	Do you support Mayor Eric Adams' proposal to overhaul NYCHA building by separating the NYCHA authority into two entities, landlord services and landowner, "the trust".	N	N	N	N
Fair Share					
8	Will you sponsor a bill to ensure social services unwanted by whiter and wealthier neighborhoods are more equitably placed in NYC to help NYC achieve Fair Share? e.g. drug treatment programs, needle exchange programs, garbage truck parking lots, adult only homeless shelters	Y	Y	Y	Y
9	Until Fair Share of social services is achieved by reducing some of our existing services, do you support placing the safe consumption site on 126th Street and Park Avenue in Harlem?	N	N	N	Y
10	Until Fair Share of social services is achieved by reducing some of our existing services, do you support expanding the service of the safe consumption site to 24 hour operations?	N	N	N	Y
11	Would you support a bill to impose zoning restrictions on where safe consumption site can be sited, in a way similar to the "200 Foot Rule" by which liquor stores locations are regulated?	Y	Y	Y	N
12	Do you support dismantling the adult only congregate shelters on Wards Island due to the unsafe lack of privacy and inhumane living conditions inside?	Y	N	Y	Y
13	Between 110th and 125th Street on Park Avenue, there is already an excessive density of supportive housing, partly driven by existing facilities operated by the Lantern Organization. Would you ask new developments such as Timbale Terrace and Fortune Society to consider changing the proportion of supportive housing for people with mental health and drug use issues?	Y	Y	Y	N
14	Since only 50% of affordable and supportive housing can be set aside for local residents, Harlem found itself to be fighting for more such housing but is never enough to satisfy our real needs. Will you fight to increase the % of affordable housing set aside for local residents to prevent further displacements?	Y	Y	Y	Y
15	It is found that more than half of the affordable and supportive housing built by De Blasio administration were concentrated in just 10 predominately Black and Brown neighborhoods. Do you believe other districts need to increase their share of affordable and supportive housing to reduce racial and income segregation in NYC?	Y	Y	Y	Y

C. LONG FORM QUESTIONS: (Please keep to 80 words for each question)

	Lopez	Mapp	Gibbs	Miranda
1) What is your plan to immediately reduce gun violence and improve quality of life issues (e.g., open-air drug use, public lewdness) in Harlem?	Reducing the gun violence plaguing our district is paramount. We cannot wait for the federal government to step in and stop the flow of guns via the "iron pipeline." We must shift the extra responsibilities away from police to allow them to focus primarily on ending gun violence. We must pass "Daniel's Law" and create a civilianized mental health response unit,that will handle the bulk of the issues affecting quality of life in East Harlem and Harlem.-	My immediate plan to recognize gun violence is a preventable public health problem. We can do this by strengthening and support positive parenting skills and strong family relations, enhance supports for fathers and mothers. We can improve the quality of life issues ensuring we have medical services and housing that everyone can afford.	I support our police officers getting illegal guns off of our streets. The root cause of most of the gun violence in our city is a small number of people trafficking illegal weapons across state lines. I also support efforts to reduce crime by supporting the Mayor's plans to get ghost guns off the street and removing those who might be a threat to themselves or others from the subways. We cannot allow open-air drug markets, and I support stronger enforcement against these kinds of spaces. I believe they are bad for our children and the longevity of the community.	I lost my son to gun violence. There's not a day that passes that I'm not reminded of this tragedy. I think about him everyday. When will this stop! We need harsher penalties for possession. Stricter gun control laws and background checks. A Ban on assault weapons ,automatic weapons and ghost guns. Let's take Guns out of their hands and replace it with a job; and work to find an answer to the question, why? NYS has some of the strictest gun laws in the country and most of this work falls in hands of changing federal laws, but I am committed to working to support our congressional delegation to make this case. Additionally, at a local level we need to support smart policing strategies that don't regurgitate past failed policies like stop and frisk, invest more in social safety net programs like mental health services, and violence interrupter programs which have proven effective.
2) Do you believe East Harlem receives less public services than other districts such as Upper East Side and Upper West Side? e.g., trash pick up, number of trash cans, street lighting, park services, police patrol, 911 response speed. If so, what's your plan to improve the equity in funding of needed services?	I was one of the first to call attention to this disparity. Unfortunately, this issue falls directly in the hands of the City Council. However, as your next Assembly Member, I will directly advocate to the City Council and Sanitation to ensure we get increased services, and I will direct state funding towards improving sanitation services statewide.	I will work with both City Councilmembers to see what's needed to ensure we have everything we need in our community.	There has always been a disparity in services for East Harlem because of the layers of prejudice and racism baked into our political and policymaking process. I believe we need to allocate resources more fairly to services not only uptown but in frontline and marginalized communities where the co-determinants of health more adversely impact residents. I would support efforts such as taxing conservancy and other public-private partnerships that provide	Absolutely, all anyone needs to do is walk through our community to see the neglect first hand. The trash, crime, drug use, homeless, is all out on public display for the naked eye and a result of systemic injustices which stigmatize communities like East Harlem. In one of the wealthiest cities in the world the only question is why? As your NYS Assembly member I will require and demand better; I will hold NYS agencies accountable to ensure that services are provided in proportion to give the same quality of life

			parks to wealthy communities to better service our parks uptown. I believe this model could be used for other services too that wealthy communities enjoy in part because of what effectively is private philanthropy.	afforded to those living on the upper west side or any other affluent neighborhood in NYS. We need to challenge the way services are sited for example. We deserve equal services, and I will fight to make sure we get exactly that.
3) According to data obtained from New York State Office of Addiction Support and Services (OASAS), even though Central and East Harlem have 3% of NYC's population, they are burdened with 18% of NYC's drug treatment capacity and 12% of NYC's adult-only homeless shelter capacity, making it common place for drug-filled needles to be littered throughout our streets, parks, and near schools. What specifically will you do to reduce the oversaturation of these services so that other neighborhoods can assume their fair share of adult-only homeless shelters, drug treatment programs, and harm reduction programs?	The oversaturation issue in East Harlem is a result of lack of meaningful representation in Albany on this issue. We have not had a state elected sit on the Addictions & Alcoholism Committee since its inception. That will end when I arrive in Albany. We also must change how the contracts for treatment facilities are written and awarded. We must shift to a result based model that will ensure that facilities are transitioning patients to other treatments than methadone. Finally, we must enact a moratorium on new treatment facilities in communities that are carrying more than 5% of the burden and ensure that facilities are spread out throughout the city and not just concentrated in our neighborhood.	I will work on providing a moratorium for communities that have more treatment centers then they have a population that is dealing with substance abuse. I will also like to see centers closed if they are not providing ways to help those who suffer from substance abuse.	There should be a cap on the number of units and facilities dedicated to drug rehabilitation and homeless services; there has to be a mechanism that forces those communities that are better-off to also take in vulnerable populations and provide for folks. I am—of course—happy to help my constituents who are struggling through these issues and always will, but what I find untenable is that any one district should just warehouse people, which doesn't help those looking for services or the long-term residents of the community.	The real issue is that nobody wants these individuals nor these facilities in their neighborhood, and understandably so, these individuals are dealing with mental health issues and serious struggles which we all have a responsibility to address. This is not a challenge that belongs to any one community but it must be seen as a collective, societal responsibility. We need fair share siting practices at local and state level and will work to engage in this debate and change the current practices.
4) Harlem is home to many small landlords, and some have been pushed to the brink, financially and otherwise, due to the time and resources it takes to evict tenants who fail to pay rent, disrupt other residents, or damage the property. What specifically will you do to make it easier	The pandemic caused a large backlog of landlord/tenant cases exists. We need the creation of an ad-hoc court staffed by qualified housing and legal professionals to adjudicate the cases. I would not characterize this as making it easier for evictions to happen, but this would resolve many of these cases efficiently. Rents are high, so are the costs of maintaining	I would like to see a program such as legal aid that will help small landlords.	I am in favor of laws that both protect tenants and small landlords, where it makes sense. There are many people who need assistance, and we should be providing some level of rental support; what we can't have are small landlords suffering from derelict tenants who don't want to pay their bills. I am an ally for those afraid of losing their properties, and I am willing to	We need legislation that is comprehensive and holistic, that examines and accounts for all factors. For tenants who are working but still struggling to cover the rent we need to assist them through offering voucher programs, as well as job training for better income opportunities, and even financial advice that teaches proper budgeting and investment strategies. I will work to expand such services and

and more cost-effective for these small landlords to be able to evict abusive renters?	properties, we need more investment by the government to ensure that quality tenants who are behind on their rent due to pandemic related job losses can receive the funding necessary to catch up on back rents.		support funds for those small landlords to recoup losses and keep their homes.	support for those struggling to pay rent. Unfortunately, the cost of living keeps rising in NYC and minimum wage and pay is not keeping up with these costs. We need to keep pushing to make NYC a city where everyone has the ability to live. We need laws and policies that protect both tenants and support small landlords. There is a way of doing this if the will is there. I am committed to engaging in these conversations and find substantive policy solutions
5) What is your strategic vision for Wards Island, which is owned by the State. Limited public transportation options, with M35 bus being the only option, contributes to the under-utilization of the land. In addition, many have criticized the inhumane conditions of the homeless shelters. There is a plan to completely rebuild the golf driving range there. Please share your vision of how this land should be used.	I am in favor of eliminating the existing shelter on Wards Island and instead create permanent supportive housing for the residents currently living there. Further, the M35 bus must become more useful for residents making it easier to visit the parks and perhaps even connect to Astoria. Further, I want the Wards/Randall's Island parks alliance to offer more programing for East Harlem residents. Most of the programing offered now is meant for non-residents. This is the largest greenspace in our district, we deserve full use of it.	I would love to see Wards Island a place that has more than one bus that goes there and close the inhumane shelters down and provide an opportunity for the community to utilize it more.	There are many things we could do with this land, but a golf driving range is not one. What I would like to see is a beautiful, prime public space that can be for the entire community. If we accept it is not appropriate to put housing there for working-class families, then I would like to see space that all of our residents can enjoy and spend time in. Having another public space would be beneficial not only to people's physical health but also to their mental and emotional well-being.	My leadership style is collaborative. I will implement a community charrette process to, collaboratively, engage in a visioning process for Wards Island. What happens is not my decision alone, it belongs to all of us and I am committed to have the community involved in envisioning what is next.
6) How do you plan to recoup the $1 Billion subsidies stolen from Harlem's NYCHA housing residents by developers to build Hudson Yard?	Hudson Yards acquired this money through abusing the EB-5 visa program, which is designed to help alleviate urban poverty. This "financial gerrymandering" stole from public housing. My plan to recoup the money involves having the Empire State Development Corporation siphon money from Hudson Yards to directly pay for NYCHA repairs in East Harlem. This includes working with NYCHA residents to	This will be a fight worth having in Albany. I'll fight to get the money back.	We must ensure the developers and contractors who build the property do not have access to public money again if those dollars are not dedicated to supporting working-class families. Our public development subsidies should not go to the development of luxury condos for the .0001% and transnational elites.	I will establish a NYCHA resident advisory council to work alongside me and my office to develop a strategic plan with recommendations and present to colleagues in assembly to build collective support

	file a lawsuit to recoup the money. We cannot continue to subsidize billionaires on the backs of our residents.			
7) Harlem has one of the highest density of NYCHA housing, which suffered from $40 Bn shortfall in repair. What is your plan to upgrade or rebuild NYCHA housing in Harlem?	$40 billion is just enough to bring the units back to code, we need a larger sustained investment. This must be done in cooperation with the city and federal government. My plan is to offer a 1:1:2 ratio for raising the money. The city would be responsible for a $10 billion investment over a period of 5 years, the state would match that amount over a 2 year period. Finally, the Federal government would bring in the additional $20 billion over one year and invest an additional $20 billion over the next 10 years. This will take a lot of negotiation between all the stakeholders, but the alternative is no acceptable. We cannot privatize or sell off public housing, we must invest in it to save it.	My plan is to repeal the trust bill and request a full audit, accountability to what the full audit findings and fully fund NYCHA with accountability.	I support dedicating more dollars to public upgrades, including the temporary boilers currently costing $2 million per boiler per month. We need to make the necessary long-term capital upgrades and reduce piecemeal, incremental costs. I also believe we all have a greater responsibility to make this a national issue, as there are cities and states where working-class people are living in deplorable conditions under the government's roof—it is simply unacceptable.	Our community has the highest concentration of NYCHA housing in the city. Decade after decade the needs of NYCHA residents are ignored; and the disposition the city takes to the NYCHA developments reverberates throughout our entire community. As a former 55 year Taft resident my fight for the quality of life for NYCHA residence is personal. As your NYS Assembly-member I will work hard to "open the books" and bring transparency on the financial state of NYCHA. We must monitor the transparency and accountability for any and all government funds allocated to the repair and capital projects allotted to NYCHA housing. The state needs to invest consistently and more greatly into the capital needs of NYCHA. I am committed to making NYCHA a priority in the state budget and to making sure our ENTIRE community receives the services it deserves. We need a greater budgetary commitment from the state to our NYCHA developments and will make this a priority of my work.
8) Owing to the East Harlem rezoning plan dated 2017 and other developments, much of the requirements of parking spaces in land use have been and will be eliminated. With the growing population density and reduction of	I am in favor of having residential parking passes in high density neighborhoods, like East Harlem. We also must recoup the parking we are losing near schools and city run facilities (like the Sanitation Depot on 1st Ave.). The residential stickers would be free (limit one per household) for residents, and if a second one is	Parking permits for each block will help increase parking spaces.	One policy to come out of COVID I would support extending would be eliminating all but the last day of alternate side parking; if it is unnecessary to move your car, then you shouldn't have to move it. Some households are forced to move their car two-to-three times per week, which quickly becomes a serious burden. I also would like to take any	1. With cases of Covid-19 on the decline we can begin removing the outdoor dining structures that have contributed to the elimination of parking. 2. Ensuring the removal of abandoned vehicles to free up monopolized parking spaces.

parking spaces, what is your plan to increase parking spaces in Harlem?	required, there would be a yearly fee associated with the subsequent sticker. Additionally, we must make improvements to public transportation (also make safer) to limit the need for the large number of vehicles we have in East Harlem.		metered parking that our long-term residents could use and transition those spaces to non-fee and allow overnight parking.	3. Limiting number of moped rentals/rideshare additions to the neighborhood