

Thank you for agreeing to complete the South Central Brooklyn United for Progress City Council District 40 candidate questionnaire. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with how our endorsement process works - a candidate must receive  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the ranked choice vote in order to win our endorsement. [More details here.](#)

Your answers to these questions will be made available to the public on our website, <http://scbkunitedforprogress.org/>, and will be promoted on our Facebook page and twitter feed.

**Answers are due 24 hours prior to your scheduled interview time if you want to be considered for endorsement!**

## Campaign Information

What is your name?

Blake Morris

What are your preferred pronouns?

He, him, his

What office are you running for?

City Council, 40th District, Flatbush, E. Flatbush

Who is the point of contact for your campaign and what is the best way to get in touch with them?

Mr. Paul Graziano

Hudson & East Associates, LLC

146-24 32nd Ave.

Flushing, NY 11354

Cell ph : 718-309-7522

Website : paulgraziano.com

Email : paulgraziano2013@gmail.com

What is your campaign address?

1214 Cortelyou Rd.

Brooklyn, NY 11218

What is your campaign phone number?

347-496-7091

What is your campaign email?

[voteblake40@gmail.com](mailto:voteblake40@gmail.com)

What is your campaign website?

voteblake40.com

Is your campaign on social media? If so, what platform(s) and what are the names?

**Voteblake40 for all social media**

## Campaign Issues

What would you do to improve **health care** as a city council member?

Get the NY Health Act passed immediately. In the meantime, use the new national law and create a digital dashboard of all medical providers, their services and their prices in super easy to use web portal.

THEN ADVERTISE IT EVERYWHERE INCLUDING VERY LARGE SIGNS IN ALL MEDICAL OFFICES.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district specifically **immigrant rights and access to resources** and what would you do to address them?

Lack of information of the resources available to them. Create and/or improve multilingual web portal, with all the information immigrants need and provide tech support for same.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **civil rights and criminal justice** and what would you do to address them?

Zero based budgeting of the police. Take the criminal law and criminal procedure law school classes and convert them to 4th, 8th, and 10th grade curriculum and teach it.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **public schools and education** and what would you do to address them?

End all high school screens

Terminate the five created non state statute designated specialized high schools

End all screens for middle schools

Make middle school catchment zones borough wide via lottery

Make permanent the abolition of the gifted and talented test

Reduce class size for K to 3rd grade to no more than 20 kids in a class

Any child falling below grade level work in K-3 receives intensive instruction until performing at grade level.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **housing** and what would you do to address them?

Two issues: Affordability and availability

#### AFFORDABILITY

End Mandatory Inclusionary housing

Moratorium on:

ULURP applications concerning residential property until new comprehensive land use review system agreed upon.

Residential evictions

Get NYC out of AMI, the same way Rockland and Westchester counties exited the formula. Hello NY Congressional delegation. I got your numbers.

#### AVAILABILITY

Use city owned property and city pension funds to build affordable cooperative housing with shareholders and renters in same building. Build 5,000 units per year.

Immediate running of street car line on Bay Ridge Freight line and open up the Brooklyn Terminal Market area including the Ditmas Av. in Brownsville light warehousing district for massive residential development.

What is your opinion on **the development at 1620 Cortelyou road** and on how the city should handle **development and rezoning** generally?

Just say no to this application. NO SPOT ZONING!!!!!!! I have testified at the Borough Pres. and City Council sub committee on land use against it.

The area was upzoned in 2009 as part of comprehensive planning in CB 14. No changes need to be made now. We do have a food desert problem so we may need a citywide overlay of special zoning for large grocery stores.

What would you do to improve **transit and street (pedestrian/bicycle/car) safety** for New Yorkers in your district?

Maximize pedestrian and cyclist safety and improve traffic flow is the goal. More traffic circles because they are evergreen in slowing traffic. Pedestrian activated traffic signals. Demolition of

of adjacent buildings to subway stations and create real transit centers where intermodal bus transfers happen within bus shed and all stations have elevators and ramps to all platforms. We can build playgrounds on the roofs of the transit centers. There is NO SHORTAGE OF CAPITAL MONEY!!!! USE IT.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding **the environment, including access to, maintenance, development and preservation of parks and other open spaces** and what would you do to address them?

Playgrounds above the new transit centers.

Stop the monopoly of the school custodians over public resources. Make all public school recreation facilities available to the general public during non-school hours. Remove the budget funding for maintenance from DOE and move to Parks.

Make ALL CUNY recreation resources available to the general public.

Build two Olympic indoor swimming pools in the 40th District.

What other issues do you consider important and how will you address them?

Run direct bus service to Floyd Bennet Field and Riis Park during summer months.

## **For fun (answers to these questions are not required)**

If your district had a musical anthem, what would it be and why?

Harold & Maude - If you want to sing out, sing out - Ruth Gordon  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKGze\\_1DWbE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKGze_1DWbE)

Stick around for the second song with the original artist.

It is a district of possibilities. Always been that way. I would like to think the 40th is a transcendentalist experience.

What is your favorite restaurant in your district?

One that remains open and is locally owned. If any business establishment satisfies those requirements they are my all time favorites.