# FAITH over FEAR CANDIDATES GUIDE for

## District 21

East Elmhurst, Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, and Corona in Queens, including Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Lefrak City and LaGuardia Airport

New York City Primary Election Day is

**Tuesday September 12, 2017** 

New York City General Election Day is

**Tuesday November 7, 2017** 

POLLS OPEN 6AM-9PM

### The Candidates



HIRAM MONSERRATE

Democrat Consultant



**FRANCISCO MOYA** 

Democrat NYS Assemblymember, District 39



### Would you defend NYC's status as a sanctuary city?

**MONSERRATE:** I fully support keeping NYC a sanctuary city. I believe that our residents should feel safe to live and work despite their status. I will work with your group and others to organize residents to educate them on the issues and advocate for their rights.

**MOYA:** As a candidate for the 21st Council District, I will continue to protect New York City as a sanctuary city. As a son of immigrants, I can affirm that the vast majority of immigrants come here and contribute positively to our city and to our economy. That is why I was the lead sponsor of the Liberty Act to make New York a sanctuary state.

# Would you support ending criminal penalties for minor infractions to limit arrests and potential threats to immigrants' status?

**MONSERRATE:** As a former police officer and marine, I believe in lowering crime but not at the expense of arresting immigrants for minor infractions. Working immigrants should not have to fear the police and the police should focus on improving community relations not performance standards.

**MOYA:** I strongly oppose this misguided policy and support putting an end to criminalizing minor infractions that place immigrants in the direct path of deportation. From a public safety standpoint, our city and nation needs to focus on fixing our broken criminal justice system that incarcerates thousands, if not millions, of innocent individuals.

# Describe your greatest accomplishment in advocating for constituents of the district.

**MONSERRATE:** Brought in millions of dollars to refurbish our parks and playgrounds at PS 127 and Hinton Parks; Brought in millions of dollars to fund and expand services at the East Elmhurst, Langston Hughes, Jackson Heights and Corona Libraries; Secured additional funding for security and sanitation; Introduced and passed legislation for the MALCOLM X and LOUIS ARMSTRONG Street renamings; Secured funding for our senior centers, afterschool programs, daycare centers, soup kitchens, food pantries; and much more

MOYA: 1) Passing the New York State DREAM Act in the NYS Assembly. The Dream Act would advance educational opportunities for children of immigrants by eliminating potential financial obstacles to obtaining state financial aid for undocumented students seeking to attend an institution of higher education; 2) Passage of Carlos Law, which holds construction workers accountable. Worker Safety Bill; 3) Fight for \$15; 4) Raise the Age; 5) Free college tuition at NYS Public colleges

### Describe the 3 biggest priorities for the district.

**MONSERRATE:** Willis Point development, creating more affordable housing and more public schools. **MOYA:** 1) Fixing Our Schools; 2) Improving the Quality of Life; 3) Building Affordable Housing

# Would you support continued funding to support detained immigrants?

**MONSERRATE:** I fully support funding for legal services being provided for immigrants at the moment of detention. I pledge to advocate for more funding once I'm elected.

**MOYA:** As the lead on creating and funding the New York Immigrant Family Unification Project in New York State, I firmly believe in giving detained immigrants access to critical legal council.

What is your position on tracking US residents and/ or citizens based on their religious identity? Would you expunge wrongly collected surveillance data on Muslim New Yorkers?

**MONSERRATE:** I believe that residents should feel free to practice their faith without fear of NYPD surveillance. I will work with the Muslim community and NYPD towards creating a stronger community partnership and more open dialogue between both sides.

MOYA: I am firmly against tracking residents and/or citizens based on their religious identity. All data collected illegally and unlawfully, must be expunged from the files of the NYPD. We must protect New York Muslims and others from discriminatory and unjustified surveillance. I support requiring articulable and factual information before the NYPD can launch a preliminary investigation into political or religious activity.

# What is your position on strengthening the reinstated Handschu Committee?

**MONSERRATE:** I believe more local residents and former victims of police brutality should be represented on the Handschu committee.

**MOYA:** I think the Committee plays a critical role in protecting privacy and free speech and should continue to exist and include community input and roles.

Would you bring to justice the perpetrators of all types of hate crimes, including those based on religion, sexual orientation, race, and ethnicity? **MONSERRATE:** Yes. I will fight alongside community groups to bring justice to any victims.

**MOYA:** I strongly support getting justice for victims of hate crimes and strengthening hate crime laws in New York State. Hate crimes unilaterally leave deep scars not only on the victims, but on our community at large. They weaken the sense that we are one people with common values. We are stronger together.

What is your position on law enforcement tracking members of civil rights movements? **MONSERRATE:** I am against any surveillance of any kind of civil rights or religious groups from NYPD or other law enforcement agencies.

**MOYA:** I am firmly against tracking residents and/or citizens based on their religious identity or political views.

Would you support legislation to allow noncitizen residents to vote in NYC elections? Allowing parolees to vote in local elections? **MONSERRATE:** Yes, I support non citizens and parolees to have the right to vote in local elections.

**MOYA:** I strongly believe we should explore the idea of non-citizens voting in elections. Despite the fact that it is a crime for aliens to vote in federal elections, noncitizens and illegal aliens are counted when apportioning congressional districts and we should explore the possibility of them voting in local elections. We should allow parolees to vote in local elections.

Do you support passing Intro. 1482 to increase oversight and comprehensive reporting of NYPD surveillance technology?

MONSERRATE: Yes.

**MOYA:** I support Intro. 1482 to create comprehensive reporting and oversight of NYPD surveillance technologies. It is important to protect the information collected by the NYPD. It is important that community voices are heard regarding the impact of the NYPD's surveillance program to ensure that communities are not targeted.

What is your position on proposed legislation Intro. 152-A, the Certificate of No Harassment, that aims to protect tenants from landlord harassment?

**MONSERRATE:** I support all legislation that protects tenants from greedy landlords and strengthen their rights against harassment.

**MOYA:** If elected to the City Council, I will support Intro. 152-A. I have always been a strong advocate for tenant protection laws. It is imperative that we stand up for tenants against harassment from landlords. In Albany, I've advocated for tenants, to preserve affordable housing and stand up against scrupulous landlords that harass tenants through construction.

What is your position on the Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development revising their requirements for developers who request subsidies to include a significant increase in the amount of deeply affordable housing?

**MONSERRATE:** I support revising term sheets for developers to increase subsidies to support more affordable housing for residents.

**MOYA:** Now, more than ever we must build and preserve affordable housing throughout New York City. Specifically, we must build affordable.

What is your position on the proposed Housing Not Warehousing legislation, including Intro.'s 1034, 1036 & 1039, to assure that land is used for affordable housing and not held vacant for profit? **MONSERRATE:** I believe in fighting developers and special interests who are trying to build out of character and unaffordable housing. I support the Housing not Warehousing legislation and will fight alongside your organization to protect residents from greedy landlords.

**MOYA:** Affordable housing is desperately needed throughout our city. That's why in the Assembly, I stood up to developers when negotiating terms for the 421-A program. People building New York deserve a wage to live in New York and the affordable units must increase in number and scope.

Do you support passage of the Right To Know Act (Intro.'s 182 & 541) to increase police accountability?

**MONSERRATE:** Yes.

MOYA: I support this legislation.

Would you support ending the NYPD's current "broken windows" policing practices that over criminalize minor crimes and quality of life infractions in low-income communities of color? **MONSERRATE:** Yes. At this time with crime being so low, the broken windows policy is not longer necessary in our communities.

**MOYA:** The over criminalization of people of color must stop. In communities like mine, where I grew up and still live, we see too often young people put into the system for minor infractions that change the path of their lives. We need to police in a smarter manner that prioritizes keeping our neighborhoods safe, not filling jails with our young people.

What is your position regarding transparency and accountability of the NYPD when officers have engaged in misconduct or abuse?

**MONSERRATE:** I believe all NYPD officers should wear body cameras and the public have full access to any videos.

**MOYA:** The more transparency, the better on these matters. I believe in having a special prosecutor and for full accounts to be made public at the appropriate times.

How would you propose to cut greenhouse gas emissions from those buildings that are the biggest & dirtiest in the city? **MONSERRATE:** I will work with business owners to change boilers for more greener alternatives. I will also work with my colleagues to create a tax incentive for business owners to switch out boilers and other polluting equipment.

**MOYA:** I think we need to expand our city's investment in renewable energy both on the commercial and residential sides. We need to make solar energy affordable and attainable.

Do you support installing solar panels on public buildings in NYC? Would you include local job creation & hire and the reinvestment of energy savings into communities most impacted by climate & economic challenges?

**MONSERRATE:** Yes. I will support the training of local residents in green jobs and encourage residents to invest in more solar paneling in my district.

**MOYA:** I absolutely support these efforts and the economic development and job creation they can provide in underserved communities.

#### **GUIDE INFORMATION**

This candidates guide is based on the platform of the Faith Over Fear coalition, a group of more than 27 faith-based justice organizations in New York City, convened by Faith in New York. The content for this guide was created through a candidates survey. All answers were written directly by the candidates or their campaigns, except in some cases where answers were shortened to meet a 50 word limit due to design limitations. All candidates listed by the New York City Campaign Finance Board (NYCCFB) and the Board of Elections were invited to fill out the survey. Only candidates who completed the survey have their information included. This guide was paid for by Faith in New York Action. To view the platform and learn more about the coalition, please visit https://faithinnewyork.org/faithoverfear.

#### **VOTING INFORMATION**

The NYC primary election is Tuesday, September 12th, 2017. You must have been registered to vote in NYC by August 18th, 2017 to vote in the primary election. The NYC general election is Tuesday November 7th, 2017. You must register to vote by October 13th, 2017 to vote in the general election. On voting day, bring your voter registration card if you have it, and another form of identification just in case. Be aware that you CANNOT be barred from voting as long as you are on the voter rolls, even if you do not have a photo ID or voter registration card. You are guaranteed assistance by a poll worker or interpreter if needed. For other questions on voting, please visit https://faithinnewyork.org/faq, or go to the New York City Board of Elections site at http://vote.nyc.ny.us.

#### **POLLING LOCATION**

Polls are open from 6am until 9pm. Your polling site is listed on your voter registration card and can also be found online at **https://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search** or by calling 1-866-VOTE-NYC.

#### FINANCIAL INFORMATION ON THE CAMPAIGNS

With more and more money being poured into elections in our country and city, is it more important than ever to understand who funds the campaigns of our elected officials. As you consider making a decision, please visit the New York City Campaign Finance Board (NYCCFB) website at **https://www.nyccfb.info/** which provides detailed information on candidates' campaign financial information.

#### **CONNECT WITH US**

To pledge to vote, to attend a forum, or to simply learn more, please visit https://faithinnewyork.org/faithoverfear. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @FaithinNewYork and use the hashtags #FaithOverFear, #FaithinNewYork, and #NYCcouncil when you post your voter selfie!



