

## **Annabel Palma BIO**

BPHN's leadership and Board of Directors welcome Annabel Palma as its new chairperson! As the Chief Equity Officer for New York City's COVID-19 Test and Trace Corps and a former New York City Councilmember who represented the Bronx's District 18, Ms. Palma brings decades of committed public service to further BPHN's mission and vision to end homelessness and to better serve communities in need.

As a Bronx native, Ms. Palma has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for underrepresented communities in the Bronx and across New York City. Annabel's career in public service began in 1991 as a nursing assistant at St. Vincent De Paul Senior Residence during which she was elected a union representative. In 1999, Ms. Palma became an organizer for 1199-SEIU where she developed a passion for organizing and educating health care workers about unfair working conditions and leading health and safety trainings.

In 2003, Annabel was first elected to the New York City Council to represent District 18. She provided her community with the voice they needed to fight for quality education, safer schools, good paying jobs, affordable housing, a cleaner environment, and greater access to health care. A Council Member for 14 years, Ms. Palma was instrumental in delivering tens of millions of dollars for projects in District 18 to renovate senior centers, public schools, youth centers, and parks, among other initiatives, including expanding public library hours and growing and modernizing Bronx cultural and higher education institutions.

In 2018, Ms. Palma was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives for the Department of Social Services. In 2020, as the nation grappled with the impact of COVID-19, Annabel was named the Chief Equity Officer of the NYC Test and Trace Corps to better focus vital resources on New Yorkers in hard hit neighborhoods which historically been marginalized.

Annabel received her Certified Nursing Assistant certification from the Bronx Community College and graduated Summa Cum Laude with an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Monroe College.