

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

1

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

----- X

June 30, 2025

Start: 9:58 a.m.

Recess: 10:04 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Alexa Avilés, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer

Carmen N. De La Rosa

Shahana Hanif

Rita C. Joseph

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Sandy Nurse

1 COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

2

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check, mic check,
3 this is a mic check on a vote on Immigrations.
4 Today's date is June 30, 2025, recorded by Walter
5 Lewis in the Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to the New York City Council vote on
8 Immigration. At this time, we would like to remind
9 everyone to silence all electronic devices.

10 Also at this point forward, no one should
11 approach the dais.

12 Chair, we're ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: [GAVEL] This meeting
14 is being called to order. Good morning, I am Council
15 Member Alexa Avilés, Chair of the Committee on
16 Immigration. I'd like to begin by thanking my
17 Committee Colleagues who have joined us here today.
18 Council Member Brewer, Council Member Hanif, Council
19 Member Joseph, Council Member De La Rosa, and Council
20 Member Nurse.

21 Today, the Committee will be voting on
22 Proposed Introduction 980-A and Resolution 931.
23 Proposed Introduction 980-A is sponsored by Council
24 Member Julie Won will increase civil penalties for
25 immigration assistance service providers that do not

comply with applicable requirements. These requirements include executing written contracts with customers, including specific language in signage and advertisements, retaining documents, and maintaining assurity. Immigration assistance service fraud complaints have grown significantly over the past year, and we're concerned that they will continue to increase in light of the decimation of immigration benefits by the Trump Administration. As pathways to immigration statuses are eliminated and ICE ramps up enforcement, immigrants become desperate to protect themselves and their families from the Trump Administration's deportation agenda, and unscrupulous providers take advantage of this desperation. Increasing the penalties against fraudulent providers seeks to improve protections for immigrant communities.

Resolution 931, sponsored by Council Member Sandy Nurse, condemns the Trump Administration for disappearing immigrants to prisons in other countries. In March, the Trump Administration deported over 200 men to a mega prison in El Salvador, where they have been forced into labor, subjected to torturous conditions, and isolated from

their friends, family, and legal representation. These individuals who have all lived and worked in the United States were targeted for their nationality, taken from their families, shipped to a foreign prison, and never heard from again. This is inhumane and profoundly disturbing. Since day one, the Trump Administration has acted cruelly towards immigrants, and in New York City, we must not stand by idly while our neighbors, friends, and families are villainized and manipulated. These bills, both of which I have proudly co-sponsored, are important steps in our ongoing fight to protect immigrant New Yorkers.

Thank you to the Committee Staff for their work on this hearing, including Nicole Catá, Senior Legislative Counsel; Rebecca Barilla, Senior Policy Analyst; Carolina Gil, Principal Financial Analyst; and Florentine Kabore, Finance Unit Head. Thank you to my Staff, Chief-of-Staff Edward Cerna, my Deputy Chief-of-Staff Christina Bottego, and Legislative Fellow Cate Byrne, and everyone who is making sure this hearing runs smoothly.

I will now turn it over to Council Member Nurse to make a brief statement on her bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you, Chair Avilés, and thank you for having this vote today. I know there's so much that we're trying to get out the door in legislation. I just want to say that I'm extremely grateful right now to be a part of this Body, that we're able to draw a line in the sand, and really take a moral stand on an issue that is so repugnant right now. Just in the last five months of this presidency, Trump's ICE and other federal agencies are wrongfully deporting immigrants and American citizens alike. Over 70 U.S. American citizens have been deported. We don't know where all of them are. It's disgusting to see so many people not be able to locate their family members, have zero idea if they're even in the state or in the country. And this is happening to New Yorkers, it's happening to high school students, it's happening to mothers and just workers just here trying to live. And it's blatantly in violation of the 14th Amendment. I mean, the U.S. Constitution doesn't have a footnote. It makes no exceptions. Every single person is subject to these rights and processes. So just really grateful that we have a Council and a Speaker that's willing to stand up for this. And I'm proud that this

1 COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

6

2 is one of many actions the Council is taking to stand
3 up to the Trump Administration. So thank you, Chair
4 Avilés.

5 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you, Council
6 Member Nurse.

7 I guess we'll ask the Clerk to call the
8 roll.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
10 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
11 vote, Committee on Immigration on Proposed
12 Introduction 980-A and Resolution 931. Items are
13 coupled. Chair Avilés.

14 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Proudly vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Bottcher.
16 Brewer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Absolutely aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: De La
19 Rosa.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye, and
21 congrats, CM Nurse.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.

25

1 COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye, thank you. So
3 important in this moment that we continue to call
4 folks out on this injustice and human rights
5 violation of our people. Thank you. I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Krishnan.

7 With a vote of five in the affirmative,
8 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, both items
9 have been adopted by the Committee.

10 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: This meeting has come
11 to a close. [GAVEL]

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date July 31, 2025