

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022

Start: 11:06 a. m.

Recess: 11:12 a. m.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 4)

B E F O R E: SHAHANA K. HANIF, CHAIR

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

CARMEN N. DE LA ROSA

RITA C. JOSEPH

SHEKAR KRISHNAN

FRANCISCO P. MOYA

PIERINA ANA SANCHEZ

SANDRA UNG

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

1 JOHANNA CASTRO: We are live.

2 SERGEANT PEREZ: Waiting to confirm the  
3 livestream.

4 Good morning, welcome to today's New York City  
5 Council's remote committee hearing on Immigration.

6 Everyone, please turn on your videos at this  
7 time. Silence all electronic devices. Any written  
8 testimony can be sent to [testimony@council.nyc.gov](mailto:testimony@council.nyc.gov).

9 Thank you, Chair Hanif, we are ready to begin.

10 CHAIRPERSON HANIF: Thank you so much.

11 [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

12 Good morning, everyone, I am Council Shahana  
13 Member Hanif, Chair of the Committee on Immigration.  
14 I would like to start by thanking my colleagues for  
15 being present today, and recognize that we have been  
16 joined by Council Members De La Rosa, Krishnan, Moya,  
17 Sanchez, and Joseph, thank you.

18 Today we are holding a vote an important  
19 resolution, which I introduced alongside Public  
20 Advocate Jumaane Williams, and it is also co-  
21 sponsored by Council Members Krishnan, Cabán, and  
22 Rivera.

23 We will be voting on Preconsidered Resolution  
24 Number T2022-0225 in relation to prohibiting  
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2 governmental entities from entering into agreements  
3 to house individuals in immigration detention  
4 facilities.

5       On any given night, hundreds of New Yorkers are  
6 detained by ICE in jails and prisons across the  
7 state. They are subjected to inhumane conditions and  
8 separated from their families and communities.

9       Although New York became a leader in banning  
10 private prisons in the criminal legal system in 2007,  
11 it is falling behind when it comes to protecting  
12 immigrant New Yorkers. Several counties in New York  
13 profit from immigration detention, and ICE is  
14 actively seeking the expand detention in New York.

15       This Resolution calls on the New York State  
16 legislator to pass, and The Governor to sign S.  
17 7373/A 7099-A, prohibiting governmental entities from  
18 entering into agreements to house individuals in  
19 immigration detention facilities.

20       The New York Dignity Not Detention Act removes  
21 New York from the business of immigration detention  
22 by prohibiting New Yorker governmental entities from  
23 entering into immigration detention contracts and  
24 from receiving any payments related to immigration  
25 detention; prohibiting New York governmental entities

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2 from renewing any existing immigration detention  
3 contracts; requiring any NY governmental entities  
4 with existing immigration detention contracts to  
5 exercise the termination provision in the contract;  
6 and prohibiting any person, business, or private  
7 entity from owning or operating immigration detention  
8 facilities.

9       This bill would help keep New York families and  
10 communities together, protect immigrants from  
11 neglect, abuse, and torture inside detention  
12 facilities, and maintain New York's commitment to  
13 immigrants' rights and racial justice by ending  
14 incarceration for profit.

15       Similar legislation was successfully passed and  
16 signed in to law in New Jersey, Maryland, California,  
17 Washington, and Illinois. The New Mexico Legislator  
18 is also considering a similar bill.

19       It is time that New York join these states as  
20 part of a nationwide fight to decarcerate and end  
21 immigrant detention everywhere.

22       On February 28th, this committee held a hearing  
23 on COVID-19 in immigration detention centers and  
24 heard this resolution. We received so much powerful  
25 testimony from advocates and individuals incarcerated

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2 or formally incarcerated. I thank them for sharing  
3 their stories with us, and calling on us to join them  
4 in raising our collective voices against the cruel  
5 and inhumane use of immigration detention.

6 I want to thank my colleagues from The Committee  
7 on Immigration for joining me today, and I would also  
8 like to thank committee staff for their work on this  
9 issue including committee counsel Harbani Ahuja and  
10 my amazing team Alex, Moose (sp?), Nora, Michael,  
11 Fazan (sp?), Hannah, thank you, and I will pass it to  
12 the clerk to call the vote.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, good morning  
14 everyone, William Martin Committee Clerk; roll call  
15 vote Committee on Immigration on Preconsidered  
16 Resolution.

17 Chair Hanif?

18 CHAIRPERSON HANIF: Aye

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

20 Moya?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

23 De La Rosa?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

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Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, sir.

Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Enthusiastically, aye,  
thank you, Chair, for your leadership.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

One moment, Okay, by a vote of six in the  
affirmative, zero on the negative, and no  
abstentions, a resolution has been adopted by the  
committee,

Uh, Chair, you can close at your convenience.

CHAIRPERSON HANIF: Thank you all so much,  
really, really proud of us and looking forward to  
this Thursday.

I will now close out.

[GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

JOHANNA CASTRO: The livestream has ended, thank  
you.

CHAIRPERSON HANIF: Amazing.

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 April 8, 2022