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COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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December 8, 2025  
Start: 10:22 a.m.  
Recess: 2:23 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Alexa Avilés, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher  
Gale A. Brewer  
Carmen N. De La Rosa  
Shahana Hanif  
Rita C. Joseph  
Shekar Krishnan

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Tiffany Cabán  
Julie Won

## A P P E A R A N C E S

Mule Herrera, Mixteca

Socheatta Meng, Executive Director at Mekong NYC

Medha Venugopal, Senior Staff Attorney with the Center for Family Representation

Brianna Abreu, Social Worker with the Center for Family Representation

Rosa Cohen-Cruz, Attorney at Bronx Defenders reading testimony on behalf of client, Kelvin

Julissa Bisono, Director of Base Building at Make the Road New York

Ana Vera, New York State Youth Leadership Council

Mina Farahman, New York City Union of Students

Giovanatta Marangon, New York City Democratic Socialists of America

KC Wagner, Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network

Alana Tornello, Human Services Council

Jason Smith, New York State Youth Leadership Council

Deborah Lee, Attorney-in-Charge of the Immigration Law Unit at the Legal Aid Society

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

Catherine Gonzalez, Associate General Counsel at Brooklyn Defender Services

Scott Foletta, Managing Attorney for the Immigration Defense Team at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem

Brittany Brown, Supervising Attorney of the Collateral Consequences Unit at New York County Defender Services

Tania Mattos, Executive Director of UnLocal

Rosa Cohen-Cruz, testifying as Director of Immigration Policy for the Bronx Defenders

Muhammad Musah, Lead Community Organizer at African Communities Together

Arash Azizzada, Co-Director of Afghans for Better Tomorrow

Mahabuba Masud, Health Justice Program at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Leslie Allen, Director of Legal Services at the New York City Anti-Violence Project

Zachary Ahmad, Senior Policy Counsel at the New York Civil Liberties Union

Dave Basnet, Senior Manager of Immigrant Rights Policy at the New York Immigration Coalition

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

Yasmine Farhang, Executive Director of the Immigrant Defense Project

Tsering Lama, Senior Manager of Organizing and Policy at Adhikaar

Nat Moghe, Advocacy Coordinator at the Asian American Federation

Wai Yin (Joyce) Wang, Program Coordinator of Korean Community Services of Metropolitan, New York

Manuel Castro, self

Alejandro Grajales, Workers Rights Organizer and Caseworker at Workers Justice Project

Reverend Chloe Breyer, Executive Director at the Interfaith Center of New York

Mohammad Razvi, Executive Director and Founder of Council of People's Organization

Samantha Sanchez, Common Cause New York

Dr. Steve Auerbach, New York Doctors Coalition

Karen Adelman, Co-Chair of the Corrections and Community Re-Entry Committee, New York City Bar Association

Alejandra Melgar Chay, paralegal at The Door's Legal Services Center

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

Shraddha Joshi, paralegal at The Door's Legal Services Center

David Moss, Legal Defense Fund

Durga Sreenivasan, Livable Future Package

Hadia Ali, Livable Future Package

Amadou Ly, Founder of the Amadou Ly Foundation

Michael Loeb, self

Kader Guerrab, self

Raul Rivera, self

Andrew Walsh, Managing Attorney for the Detained Program at Kids in Need of Defense, New York Office

Rex Chen, Supervising Counsel for Immigrant Rights at LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Rachana Shah, self

Jodi Ziesemer, Policy Director for Immigration Emergency Response at the New York Legal Assistance Group

Heather Maria, self

Jenna Jaffe, self

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

Christopher Leon Johnson, self

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a  
3 microphone check, Committee on Immigration located in  
4 the Chambers recorded by Tasha Sherman. Today's date  
5 is 12-8-2025.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
7 welcome to the New York City Council hearing of the  
8 Committee on Immigration.

9 At this time, can everybody please  
10 silence your cell phones.

11 If you wish to testify, please go to the  
12 back of the room to fill out a testimony slip, even  
13 if you are already registered online.

14 At this time and going forward, no one is  
15 to approach the dais. I repeat, no one is to approach  
16 the dais.

17 Chair, we are ready to begin.

18 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: [GAVEL] This  
19 Committee is called to order. Good morning, everyone,  
20 and welcome to today's hearing of the Committee on  
21 Immigration. I am Council Member Alexa Avilés, Chair  
22 of the Committee.

23 Today, we will consider four bills.  
24 Proposed Introduction 214-A, Introduction 1268,  
25 Introduction 1272, and Introduction 412.

2 I'd like to begin by thanking the members  
3 of the public and my Committee Colleagues who have  
4 joined us here today. We are joined by Council Member  
5 Shahana Hanif, Council Member Tiffany Cabán, and  
6 Council Member Rita Joseph.

7 So, while the First Deputy Mayor and the  
8 Commissioners enjoy a taxpayer-funded job, they seem  
9 to have decided that being held accountable for their  
10 work is not worth their time. It is clear by the  
11 empty chairs before you that this Administration  
12 thinks very little of our communities. Shame on every  
13 last one of these so-called public servants. During  
14 such an important time and scary time for immigrant  
15 New Yorkers, their absence is not only supremely  
16 offensive, but it underscores why Eric Adams is a  
17 one-term mayor. We will remember who cut the deals to  
18 keep themselves out of jail. We will remember who  
19 decided they can't show up to a hearing. We will  
20 remember who is not doing the work of New York City  
21 service while they are getting paid through December  
22 31st with pension. We will remember who decided to  
23 not show up to hearings while every administration  
24 for the past 100 administrations have done their  
25 duty. We will remember who was really petty and

2 cowardice, potentially incompetent, or simply just  
3 didn't care for immigrant New Yorkers. It is a damn  
4 shame. For the record, Commissioners can indeed show  
5 up in their personal capacities to testify if they  
6 cared, but we see no such action.

7                   With that, in the people's house, we will  
8 move to public testimony. So, I want to start with a  
9 procedural note. Given the number of witnesses signed  
10 up to testify today, we may be in testimony for  
11 several hours so please plan accordingly and please  
12 maintain decorum. If you wish to express support, use  
13 the silent approval gesture, and I sincerely thank  
14 you for your patience and interest in this hearing.

15                   Our City has been at the forefront of  
16 creating legislation that directs municipal resources  
17 away from enforcement of outdated and xenophobic  
18 federal immigration policies and agencies that  
19 weaponize them. These safeguards ensure that our City  
20 does not conduct civil immigration enforcement and  
21 that it instead upholds dignity of all residents of  
22 our sanctuary city. At this hearing, the Committee  
23 will examine legislative proposals to consider what  
24 more the City can do to marshal our resources and

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2 protect all New Yorkers, regardless of citizenship or  
3 immigration status.

4 First, we will hear Proposed Intro. 214-A, sponsored by Council Member Shahana Hanif, in  
5 relation to creating a private right of action  
6 related to civil immigration detainees in cooperation  
7 with the federal government authorities. This bill  
8 would create a private right of action in the City's  
9 civil immigration detainer laws, allowing individuals  
10 held by New York City Police Department, the  
11 Department of Corrections, and the Department of  
12 Probation to bring an action alleging a violation of  
13 detainer laws in any court of competent jurisdiction.  
14 Even with the successes of New York City's detainer  
15 laws, non-citizen community members have been victims  
16 of violations of these local laws. A recent report of  
17 the New York City Department of Investigation, for  
18 example, found that the Department of Corrections  
19 officers had violated the City's sanctuary laws by  
20 sharing information with federal immigration  
21 authorities about two individuals in DOC custody. In  
22 February of 2023, the Committees on Immigration and  
23 Criminal Justice held a joint oversight hearing in  
24 which advocates and impacted individuals testified

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2 that the Department of Corrections had overtly  
3 colluded with ICE to transfer immigrants from DOC to  
4 ICE custody in violation of our laws. Proposed  
5 Introduction 214-A would provide non-citizen New  
6 Yorkers with recourse when NYPD, DOC, or DOP officers  
7 violate the detainer or other relevant local laws.

8                   Second, we will consider Intro. 1268,  
9 which I sponsor, in relation to signage describing  
10 certain constitutional and legal protections. This  
11 bill would require the Commissioner of MOIA, in  
12 consultation with the New York City Law Department,  
13 to develop signage that clearly describes the legal  
14 protections enacted in key provisions of the law. The  
15 signage would also clearly identify examples of non-  
16 public areas of City property and list the rights  
17 individuals may invoke when interacting with federal  
18 immigration authorities. The MOIA Commissioner would  
19 prepare the signage in plain language, translate it  
20 into multiple languages, and make it available to  
21 City agencies. City agencies would conspicuously post  
22 the signage, and MOIA Commissioner would conduct  
23 outreach regarding the contents of the signage. While  
24 our non-profit providers are strapped providing  
25 workshop after workshop informing our immigrant

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2 communities of their rights, the City must come up  
3 with a way to more consistently deliver this message,  
4 not only to those impacted, but to each city agency  
5 across all levels of staffing.

6                   Third, we will take up Intro. 1272,  
7 sponsored by Council Member Hanif, which would  
8 restrict employers from using E-Verify or any other  
9 employment eligibility verification system to check  
10 the employment authorization status of an employee or  
11 an applicant who has not been offered employment,  
12 except when federally required. This bill would also  
13 require employers to post the notice of their  
14 enrollment in the E-Verify system in an area that is  
15 visible to both prospective and current employees.  
16 Employers additionally would be required to issue a  
17 tentative non-confirmation notice to employees if  
18 they are not found within the E-Verify system.

19                   Finally, we will hear Intro. 1412,  
20 sponsored by Council Member Tiffany Cabán, in  
21 relation to redefining terms concerning immigration  
22 enforcement to account for current enforcement  
23 practices and prohibiting the maintenance of an  
24 office or quarters on property under the jurisdiction  
25 of the Department of Corrections by federal

2 immigration authorities. Local Law 58 of 2014  
3 prohibits ICE from maintaining an office at the  
4 Rikers Island Detention Facility to enforce civil  
5 immigration law. However, Local Law 58 provides the  
6 mayor may, by executive order, authorize federal  
7 immigration authorities to maintain an office or  
8 quarters on property under the jurisdiction of the  
9 Department of Corrections for purposes unrelated to  
10 the enforcement of civil immigration laws. On April  
11 8, 2025, First Deputy Mayor Randy Mastro signed an  
12 executive order to allow ICE to maintain an office on  
13 Rikers Island. The Council sued, and the New York  
14 State Supreme Court invalidated the executive order  
15 due to the impermissible appearance of a conflict of  
16 interest. Perhaps that's another reason why they are  
17 not here today. Intro. 1412 would bar federal  
18 immigration authorities from maintaining offices or  
19 quarters for any purpose on land over which DOC  
20 exercises jurisdiction. It would explicitly supersede  
21 any conflicting mayoral executive order or memorandum  
22 of understanding entered into by New York City.  
23 Finally, it would amend several definitions of the Ad  
24 Code to account for current immigration enforcement  
25 practices.

2                   These bills seek to reinforce New York  
3 City's proud sanctuary city status by dedicating  
4 precious resources to protecting workers and sharing  
5 actionable information with community members, rather  
6 than facilitating extreme immigration enforcement  
7 agenda of the White supremacists known as Donald  
8 Trump, Stephen Miller, and Tom Homan.

9                   I look forward to discussing the  
10 legislation at today's hearing, and I would sincerely  
11 like to thank all the Committee Staff for their work  
12 on this Committee over the past two years, and on  
13 this hearing in particular, including Senior  
14 Legislative Counsel Nicole Catá; Senior Legislative  
15 Policy Analyst Rebecca Barilla; Principal Financial  
16 Analyst Carolina Gil; Council Finance Assistant  
17 Director Florentine Kabore, who are, quite frankly,  
18 exemplary public servants and always have showed up  
19 for our communities. And finally, I'd like to thank  
20 my Staff, Chief-of-Staff Edward Cerna; Deputy Chief-  
21 of-Staff Christina Bottego; Communications Director  
22 Winnie Mariam; and Legislative Fellow Lily Yeung.  
23 Thank you to all the hands that make these hearings  
24 run smoothly, our security team, our IT team, and  
25 Council Staff.

As my last hearing as a Chair of Immigration in this term, I would like to take a special note around what a great honor it has been to engage, to interrogate, and to advocate for immigrant New Yorkers and their family. This field has some of the most compassionate and courageous advocates and activists, and I see you and I thank you for all that you have done for communities. I want to also thank Megan Lynch for her dedication, her focus. It is fitting that she grew up in Sunset Park. She is a fighter, and we must be clear that when Eric Adams and his Administration went silent and absent while our communities were being terrorized, it was this Council, under Speaker Adrienne Adams, with Faiza Ali and Megan Lynch at her side who led the charge and delivered for immigrant communities. And so for that, I am eternally thankful.

19 And I'd like to recognize we've been  
20 joined by Council Member Bottcher.

21 And now I will turn it over to Council  
22 Member Hanif for her brief remarks on her bills.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you. Good  
24 morning, everyone. I'm Council Member Shahana Hanif.

2 Thank you, Chair Avilés, for convening today's  
3 hearing and for including two of my bills.

4 First, I'd just like to share that I  
5 would like to associate myself with the comments of  
6 Chair Avilés.

7 Coming to my bill, Intro. 214, the New  
8 York City Trust Act, and Intro. 1272, the Protecting  
9 Employees from Misuse, Discrimination, and  
10 Surveillance Act, or PEMDAS, on the agenda. Thank you  
11 also to everyone joining today to share testimony in  
12 support of these bills and our immigrant communities.

13 I'm the proud daughter of Bangladeshi  
14 immigrants raised in Kensington, in Brooklyn's Little  
15 Bangladesh, an enclave where there has always been an  
16 ever-present sense of fear. As a 10-year-old, post-9-  
17 11 surveillance became the moment I first understood  
18 the precariousness of immigration status and the reality  
19 of racial profiling and discrimination. The second  
20 and third defining moments were during Trump's  
21 presidency. Those fears have only been intensified  
22 since the new federal administration, which has  
23 already inflicted extraordinary harm on immigrant  
24 communities. In just 11 months, we have seen federal  
25 immigration enforcement racially profile victims and

2 use excessive force, actions that routinely violate  
3 immigrants' rights, undermine our democracy, and  
4 erode the basic principles of due process. New York  
5 City is a city of immigrants, and our sanctuary laws  
6 exist to keep our communities safe, but too often,  
7 those protections are ignored. We've seen City  
8 agencies unlawfully share information with federal  
9 immigration authorities with no training, no  
10 accountability, and right now, no enforcement  
11 mechanism when our laws are violated. Intro. 214, the  
12 New York City Trust Act, closes that gap and gives  
13 real teeth to our sanctuary protections. It creates a  
14 private right of action, a legal tool that allows New  
15 Yorkers to hold the NYPD, Department of Corrections,  
16 and the Department of Probation accountable in court  
17 if their rights are violated. Individuals unlawfully  
18 detained because the agency coordinated with ICE can  
19 seek justice. DOC has been found to repeatedly and  
20 clearly violate our detainer laws in multiple  
21 instances over nearly a decade, including as recently  
22 as 2024 and February of this year, as revealed in the  
23 Department of Investigations report released in  
24 September 25th. The report has also found that DOC  
25 provides no training to officers or staff on New York

2 City's sanctuary city laws, or its own policies  
3 issued under those laws. I would have asked them  
4 directly about these violations today, but in a show  
5 of disregard for this Council and for immigrant  
6 communities, DOC has chosen not to appear at this  
7 hearing, nor have they given us a statement. And I  
8 don't even want to go into MOIA's statement because  
9 it's equally as useless.

10                   My second bill, Intro. 1272, the PEMDAS  
11 Act, protects workers from the misuse of E-Verify, a  
12 federal system meant to confirm work authorization.  
13 E-Verify errors harm tens of thousands of authorized  
14 workers every year, especially immigrants, and some  
15 employers use it to illegally screen or intimidate  
16 applicants. Intro. 1272 sets a clear order. E-Verify  
17 can only be used after a job offer, strictly to  
18 confirm work authorization, not to exclude or  
19 threaten workers. In this climate of fear, immigrant  
20 New Yorkers must be able to trust that our city will  
21 protect them, not profile them, not hand them over,  
22 and not let employers abuse them.

23                   I urge my Colleagues to support both  
24 Intro. 214 and Intro. 1272. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you, Council  
3 Member Hanif.

4 Now I will turn it over to Council Member  
5 Cabán.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. And  
7 thank you, Chair, for never mincing words.

8 We convene here today because something  
9 profoundly disturbing is occurring in our city.  
10 Federal agencies that have never had a role in civil  
11 immigration enforcement are suddenly being deployed  
12 as instruments of fear. Agencies designed to support  
13 and protect the public are being redirected to  
14 intimidate, to traumatize, and terrorize the very  
15 people that they were meant to serve. Seniors beaten,  
16 pregnant mothers shackled, children, including six-  
17 year-olds, forcibly taken from their parents' arms.  
18 These are not abstractions. These are kidnappings.  
19 These are acts of terror. And New York has long and  
20 proudly stood as a sanctuary city. Our sanctuary laws  
21 exist for one purpose, to keep people safe. To ensure  
22 that every resident can access services, seek  
23 assistance, and participate in public life without  
24 the threat of immigration retaliation. The evidence  
25 is unequivocal. Sanctuary counties are safer per

2 capita than non-sanctuary counties. That's why I'm  
3 proud to support the Safer Sanctuary Act. We refuse  
4 to allow any government agency, at any level, to be  
5 weaponized against our communities. This bill  
6 clarifies and strengthens our sanctuary laws, making  
7 clear that no federal agency may circumvent the  
8 protections this city has democratically put in  
9 place. It also ensures that ICE cannot embed itself  
10 in our jails, facilities where far too many New  
11 Yorkers have died awaiting care, and where the people  
12 most likely to be detained are those who simply  
13 cannot afford to buy their freedom. New Yorkers  
14 already disappear within those walls, and we cannot  
15 and will not allow our jail system to become an  
16 extension of a deportation machine.

17 Before I continue, I must address a  
18 matter that goes to the heart of accountability and  
19 democratic governance. The Adams Administration's  
20 directive instructing city agencies not to appear at  
21 this council oversight hearing is an unacceptable  
22 obstruction of transparency. I am looking here at  
23 empty chairs where the administration should be  
24 sitting, and I don't know where the hell the Mayor  
25 is, but I can tell you that First Deputy Mayor Randy

2 Mastro is downstairs. I saw him. I spoke to him. I  
3 said, I said, First Deputy Mayor, why aren't you  
4 sending anybody to testify at the hearing. He said,  
5 what hearing. And so either it is ignorance or a  
6 complete derelict of duty, but either way, every  
7 single New Yorker should be enraged. Not a single  
8 leader in the Administration deserves the right or  
9 the privilege to represent our City, because they  
10 should be here protecting each and every one of us  
11 and our neighbors and our loved ones. This Council  
12 has a legal and moral mandate to conduct oversight of  
13 the executive branch. Ordering agencies to defy that  
14 mandate undermines public trust, it disrespects the  
15 legislative process, and signals a disturbing  
16 hostility towards accountability. New Yorkers deserve  
17 answers and not evasions. They deserve a government  
18 that shows up. And I want to state clearly, the  
19 people will not be deterred and we will not be  
20 silenced. The Council will show up, even if the  
21 Administration fails to, to listen to the testimonies  
22 of our neighbors. Let's also be clear, fear doesn't  
23 make us safe. Kidnapping children does not make us  
24 safe. Disappearing elders does not make us safe.  
25 Driving families into the shadows does not make us

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2 safe. Safety comes from community, solidarity, and  
3 collective care. The Safer Sanctuary Act is one of  
4 the tools we need to keep us safe. And with your  
5 voices, your power, and your organizing, we will pass  
6 it. We will protect our neighbors and we will keep  
7 our families together. (SPEAKING SPANISH) Thank you,  
8 Chair, and let us all continue the work.

9 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you, Council  
10 Member Cabán.

11 I'd like to recognize we've been joined  
12 by Council Member De La Rosa.

13 Now we will hear from a panel of  
14 community witnesses. Please come to the witness table  
15 when I call your name.

16 Actually before I open it to public  
17 testimony, I'd like to share with all of you who made  
18 time today to come. I wish you could all zoom in. But  
19 this is the testimony from the Mayor's Office of  
20 Immigrant Affairs, three teeny tiny paragraphs. This  
21 is what the New York City Mayor and his  
22 Administration thought was fitting to do in today's  
23 climate regarding today's bills, regarding the work  
24 that all of you are doing. This. Department of  
25 Corrections wasn't any better. They double-spaced

2 theirs, but it's probably similarly three paragraphs.  
3 Of course, they don't agree with anything because  
4 they want loopholes. They want to continue to  
5 collude, be above the law, and not be held  
6 accountable. I'm going to save my choice words.  
7 Actually, for the Department of Consumer and Worker  
8 Protection, they agree that this signage law would be  
9 important. I think they actually do good work, and  
10 they haven't been so disrespectful. So, I'm going to  
11 commend the Department of Consumer and Worker  
12 Protection, who needs more resources, for their  
13 efforts and for their leadership. The other two  
14 agencies, not so much. I just needed to share that  
15 with you all because I'm so offended by this whole  
16 situation. Yeah, you all can join me in anger.

17 So now we're going to open to public  
18 testimony.

19 I remind members of the public that this  
20 is a government proceeding and that decorum shall be  
21 observed at all times. As such, members of the public  
22 shall remain silent at all times.

23 The witness table is reserved for people  
24 who wish to testify. No video recording or  
25 photography is allowed from the witness table.

2 Further, members of the public may not present audio  
3 or video recordings as testimony, but may submit  
4 transcripts of such recordings to the Sergeant-at-  
5 Arms for inclusion in the hearing record.

6           If you wish to speak at today's hearing,  
7 please fill out the appearance card with the  
8 Sergeant-at-Arms and wait to be recognized.

9           When recognized, you will have three  
10 minutes to speak on today's hearing topic. Proposed  
11 Introduction 214-A, Introduction 1268, Introduction  
12 1272, and Introduction 1412.

13           If you have written statement or  
14 additional written testimony you wish to submit for  
15 the record, please provide a copy of that testimony  
16 to the Sergeant-at-Arms. You may also email written  
17 testimony to [testimony@council.nyc.gov](mailto:testimony@council.nyc.gov) within 72  
18 hours of the close of this hearing. Audio and video  
19 recordings will not be accepted.

20           For in-person panelists, again, please  
21 come up to the table when your name has been called.

22           And now I will call our first panel. And  
23 please excuse me if I mispronounce your name. Mule  
24 Herrera from Mixteca, Socheatta Meng, Medha

2 Venugopal, Kelvin Servita-Arrocha (phonetic), and  
3 Julissa BISONO.

4 MULE HERRERA: Thank you very much. This  
5 is my first time testifying, and English is not my  
6 first language, so I expect everybody to be patient  
7 because I need to read slow for you to understand.

8 Good morning, and thank you for the  
9 opportunity to testify today. My name is Mule  
10 Herrera, and I am a queer Mexican immigrant, a  
11 community advocate at Mixteca, a community-based  
12 organization in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, that has  
13 served the Latina and indigenous immigrant community  
14 for 25 years. We want to welcome the proposal put  
15 forward by our elected officials, Alexa Avilés,  
16 Shahana Hanif, and Tiffany Cabán. My colleagues here  
17 in the room and I deeply recognize the urgency of  
18 these proposals at a time when our community  
19 continues to face constant attacks. Mixteca has  
20 decided to highlight Introduction 214 and  
21 Introduction 1268 because they address two critical  
22 gaps our community experiences daily. Regarding  
23 Introduction 214, which creates a private right of  
24 action related to civil immigration detainees and  
25 cooperation with federal immigration authorities, at

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2 Mixteca we encounter multiplied cases every week  
3 where a community member has been detained illegally,  
4 often in spaces that should be safe for a dignified  
5 life for all New Yorkers. This proposal gives people  
6 and advocates like me the opportunity to seek  
7 accountability for local agencies. However, we must  
8 be realistic. Many members of our community do not  
9 have the resources or time to hire an attorney, and  
10 the justice system is not always accessible,  
11 particularly when the intersections are between  
12 Latina, indigenous, and migrant, a woman, and a queer  
13 person. For this reason, while we welcome this  
14 proposal as a small light of hope, local and concrete  
15 interventions are indispensable to ensure justice for  
16 all, not just for a few.

17                   Regarding Introduction 1268, which  
18 focuses on education and right prevention through  
19 public signage, we value this initiative because it  
20 amplifies rights informed beyond community-based  
21 organizations. Placing this information in public  
22 spaces demonstrates the City's presence and oversight  
23 regarding ICE actions and empowers the community.  
24 Since January of this year, Mixteca has conducted 85  
25 Know Your Rights workshops, reaching out more than

2 1,700 people, with just two team members, not  
3 including the daily consultations we receive during  
4 walk-in hours. Yet today, our community increasingly  
5 doubts the effectiveness of Know Your Rights  
6 workshops. People often question their utility, which  
7 underscores the need to update information to reflect  
8 the current reality. It is crucial that the community  
9 knows how the City can protect, assist them when  
10 their rights are actually violated. Therefore, we  
11 urgently need MOIA, who I need to say is not here,  
12 and I echo the embarrassment of that, MOIA needs to  
13 provide direct training to local (TIMER CHIME) agency  
14 staff, teaching them how to act and what steps to  
15 follow to protect New Yorkers when immigrant agents  
16 enter City spaces, more than just sending PDFs. Real  
17 safety depends on staff knowing how to intervene  
18 effectively, with City-established rapid response  
19 protocols and de-escalation measures. This is  
20 fundamental to realize the idea of a sanctuary city.  
21 As a community advocate, I want to be able to  
22 accompany someone to a hospital or school and trust  
23 that if ICE arrives, the staff will be prepared to  
24 intervene realistically and protect the people they  
25 serve, with the City's support.

2                   In conclusion, we welcome these proposals  
3 and recognize the critical protection and empowerment  
4 they represent, but we must ensure the implementation  
5 is concrete, realistic, and be backed by direct City  
6 support. (SPEAKING SPANISH)

7                   CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

8                   SOCHEATTA MENG: Good morning. Thank you  
9 to the New York City Council Immigration Committee  
10 for holding this public hearing, for your leadership,  
11 and for providing the opportunity to share our  
12 testimony today. My name is Socheatta Meng, and I am  
13 the Executive Director at Mekong NYC. Mekong NYC is a  
14 social justice organization dedicated to organizing  
15 the Southeast Asian community in the Bronx and  
16 throughout New York City. We are proud to be the only  
17 community-based organization providing Southeast  
18 Asian deportation defense work in New York. And  
19 today, more than ever, this work is urgent. Fifty  
20 years ago, the U.S. government brought over 1.2  
21 million people from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam to  
22 this country. Here in New York City, tens of  
23 thousands of our community members were resettled in  
24 the Bronx and Brooklyn after surviving unimaginable  
25 trauma, the Vietnam War, the Khmer Rouge genocide,

2 and relentless carpet bombing, all fueled by the U.S.  
3 military. The Southeast Asian community has long been  
4 invisible in this country, and in the landscape of  
5 detention and deportation, we remain overlooked and  
6 hidden in the margins. For the past 20 years, our  
7 community has experienced a deportation crisis with  
8 17,000 people who faced deportation. Southeast Asian  
9 people are three to five times more likely to be  
10 deported due to prior convictions, even when  
11 community members have already served their time.  
12 Under the second Trump Administration, this crisis  
13 has escalated in horrifying ways. During the past  
14 year, hundreds of Southeast Asian people have been  
15 quietly rounded up, placed on charter flights, and  
16 separated from their families. For example, in May,  
17 during the Memorial Day weekend, 160 people were  
18 deported to Laos and Vietnam. In August, another 100  
19 people were sent to Laos and Vietnam. And during the  
20 Labor Day weekend in September, 59 people were  
21 deported to Cambodia and Laos. And in this past  
22 October and November, 300 people were deported to  
23 Laos and Vietnam. ICE has even deported our people to  
24 third countries, including Panama, Libya, South  
25 Sudan, and Eswatini, sending people to places they

2 have never known. These are not isolated incidences.

3 They are the consequence of a system designed to

4 dehumanize, disappear, and discard. At Mekong NYC, as

5 we fight every day to provide know-your-rights

6 information, emergency planning support, ICE

7 accompaniments, and case management, we have seen

8 requests for support quadruple in the past year.

9 Today, families in our community are afraid to drop

10 their kids off at school. They're afraid to buy

11 groceries, go to the park, or move freely in their

12 own neighborhoods. This is displacement happening all

13 over again. Fifty years ago, the U.S. brought our

14 families here after devastating our homeland. Today,

15 the U.S. is forcing our people to hide once again, no

16 longer from bombs, but from ICE this time. With

17 billions of more dollars coming in to fuel Trump's

18 anti-immigrant agenda, (TIMER CHIME) we need the City

19 Council's leadership to protect the Southeast Asian

20 community and all of our immigrant siblings across

21 the city. We call on the City Council to swiftly pass

22 the New York City Trust Act, the Safer Sanctuary Act,

23 and also, as a member of the Rapid Immigration

24 Support and Empowerment, the RISE, Network, we also

25 call on the City Council to protect and expand legal

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2 services for Asian American and Pacific Islander  
3 communities, to increase investment in language-  
4 accessible legal services, and to prioritize funding  
5 for small and medium-sized community-based  
6 organizations.

7 I'm going to wrap up now, but again,  
8 thank you to the Committee on Immigration for your  
9 leadership. We look forward to partnering with you to  
10 make sure that ICE has no place in New York City and  
11 that all of our immigrant communities can live with  
12 dignity and protection and safety. Thank you.

13 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: Good morning, Honorable  
14 Council Members. My name is Medha Venugopal. I am a  
15 Senior Staff Attorney with the Center for Family  
16 Representation.

17 BRIANNA ABREU: Good morning, everyone. My  
18 name is Brianna Abreu, and I am a Social Worker with  
19 the Center for Family Representation where we work to  
20 keep families together.

21 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: We are here to share the  
22 harrowing story of our client, Jennifer, who to this  
23 day suffers from the trauma of ACS' collusion with  
24 Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE. To best  
25 evoke our client's voice in telling her story,

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2 Brianna will testify in Spanish, and I will provide  
3 the translation.

4 BRIANNA ABREU: Thank you. (SPEAKING  
5 SPANISH)

6 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: Hello. My name is  
7 Jennifer, and I am an immigrant mother, and I arrived  
8 in New York last year.

9 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

10 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: When I came to New York,  
11 I came with many dreams to give my children a better  
12 life.

13 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

14 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: But that dream turned  
15 into a nightmare when local agencies violated the law  
16 and my rights when they shared my confidential  
17 information with ICE.

18 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

19 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: When I was at the  
20 shelter, I asked the shelter workers for therapy  
21 services for my children, and they said yes. and they  
22 said yes. and myself, because the trauma of our trip  
23 from my country to the United States was affecting us  
24 greatly.

25 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

2 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: Instead of giving us  
3 therapy support, the shelter workers called ACS to  
4 talk to my children.

5 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

6 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: When ACS arrived, I  
7 didn't know they were investigating me and I was  
8 under the impression that they were providing therapy  
9 support.

10 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

11 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: After ACS spoke with my  
12 children, I had an appointment with ICE. When I went  
13 to my appointment, they detained me.

14 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

15 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: And when I asked ICE  
16 officer when they were going to release me, he mocked  
17 me and said that they were going to deport me because  
18 there was an open criminal case against me.

19 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

20 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: I was shocked because I  
21 never had any contact with the police.

22 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

23 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: I had a panic attack and  
24 passed out and was taken to the hospital.

25 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

2 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: My lawyer later  
3 discovered that ACS shared my confidential  
4 information with ICE and that's why they detained me.

5 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

6 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: I spent a month in  
7 detention without being able to see or talk to my  
8 children.

9 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

10 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: With the support of my  
11 attorney, I was released, but I am still suffering  
12 from the trauma of ACS's actions, and I am here to  
13 reveal these injustices that also happen to many  
14 families in New York.

15 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

16 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: Under the Trump  
17 Administration, what happened to me and my family is  
18 happening to many more New York families without  
19 impunity.

20 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

21 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: I wanted to share this  
22 testimony today to urge City officials to protect  
23 mothers and families like mine from local agency  
24 collusion with ICE.

25 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

2 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: I'm still living with  
3 the consequences of the actions of ACS, ICE, and the  
4 family separation system.

5 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

6 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: I don't want to see any  
7 more mothers and families like mine suffering like  
8 me.

9 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

10 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: I call upon this  
11 Committee to pass the New York City Trust Act, Intro.  
12 214, to create a system of accountability for the  
13 violation of the sanctuary laws that exist in New  
14 York City.

15 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

16 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: No (TIMER CHIME) agency  
17 should feel empowered to violate the law and there  
18 should be consequences for when they do.

19 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

20 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: Do what is right to keep  
21 families in New York City safe and together.

22 BRIANNA ABREU: (SPEAKING SPANISH)

23 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: Thank you for your time  
24 and this opportunity to testify.

25 CHAIRPERSON AVILES: Gracias.

2 ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: Good morning, everybody.

3 My name is Rosa Cohen-Cruz. I'm reading testimony on  
4 behalf of Bronx Defender's client, Kelvin.

5 In January of 2024, my life was turned  
6 upside down. The NYPD claimed I was part of a violent  
7 attack on officers in Times Square. They branded me a  
8 gang member and a fugitive and they implied that  
9 because of laws designed to protect immigrants like  
10 me from abuse, they were unable to stop us from doing  
11 something dangerous. All these claims were lies. I  
12 never left New York. I was here the whole time  
13 waiting for my court date. I was never part of a gang  
14 either. And it was the NYPD who initiated the  
15 violence that day as video evidence later revealed. I  
16 never assaulted a police officer and that charge was  
17 dropped. I pled guilty to a misdemeanor for kicking a  
18 police radio after witnessing officers brutally  
19 attack my friends. But now that the dust has settled,  
20 you don't hear about any of this or the further  
21 violations to me and my family. The injustice started  
22 the night I was arrested by ICE. On a cold and snowy  
23 February night, NYPD and ICE officers stormed into my  
24 apartment together, guns drawn, shouting. I was  
25 barefoot, half asleep and terrified. They ignored my

2      pleas not to scare the children and for shoes. They  
3      dragged me into the freezing cold and told me I was  
4      being deported. For days, my family was trapped  
5      inside the apartment by NYPD officers, guarding  
6      outside. They couldn't leave even for food. Our  
7      children went hungry. Why was ICE there? The NYPD  
8      says the law prevents them from working with ICE. But  
9      not that day. Not when they wanted to make an example  
10     out of me. After my arrest, they threw me into an  
11     immigration jail in Orange County, New York. It was  
12     like being buried alive. I couldn't shower, drink  
13     water, or even make a phone call. I never saw an  
14     immigration judge, never had a chance to ask for  
15     bond. Then they sent me to Rikers Island to wait for  
16     my criminal case. Even if I had posted bail, I  
17     wouldn't have been released because I was there as a  
18     borrowed prisoner from ICE. It's terrifying to  
19     realize how vulnerable we are as recently arrived New  
20     Yorkers. The laws that are supposed to protect us are  
21     barely holding on. And when they work, the NYPD  
22     violates them anyway without consequences to them.  
23     This isn't about letting anyone get away with  
24     anything. I care about living in a safe city. But it  
25     cannot come at the expense of our rights and

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2 separating families based on lies and fearmongering.  
3 Immigrants shouldn't be afraid to interact with the  
4 government, and the government shouldn't make New  
5 Yorkers afraid of each other either. And when they do  
6 so based on lies and ignoring the law, there should  
7 be accountability. That's why I support Intro. 214  
8 that would give people the power to sue when the NYPD  
9 and other agencies break the law. We all deserve to  
10 be treated with dignity and respect, no matter how  
11 long we've been here. That's the New York I believe  
12 in, and I believe most New Yorkers want that too.  
13 Thank you.

14 JULISSA BISONO: Good morning, everyone.  
15 Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is  
16 Julissa Bisono, and I'm the Director of Base Building  
17 at Make the Road New York, the largest member-led  
18 organization in New York State. Make the Road has  
19 over 28,000 members in and around New York City. Our  
20 members and communities are under relentless attack  
21 right now from ICE and the agencies cooperating with  
22 ICE too. The phenomenon of a courthouse arrest and  
23 arrests at regular check-in appointments have  
24 received wide coverage. Make the Road New York has  
25 led in the fight against the humane conditions that

2 our communities are then subject to inside 26 Federal  
3 Plaza. That's literally a few blocks from here. What  
4 is well less known is that our members and that our  
5 loved ones are being literally ripped off the streets  
6 and disappeared in immigrant neighborhoods across the  
7 state, including in three of our New York City  
8 offices where we have offices are located in Corona,  
9 Queens. Every day, every day, we're seeing people  
10 being picked up. I was in the morning heading to  
11 work, dropping off their kids to school. Bushwick,  
12 Brooklyn, and Port Richmond, Staten Island. Agents  
13 are intentionally passing themselves off as police,  
14 are stalking our streets in the morning during rush  
15 hour and again in the evening as people go home. We  
16 had a member detained at a bus stop near our office  
17 in Bushwick. A member father who was just detained on  
18 a sidewalk literally this past weekend in Port  
19 Richmond. We've been working day in and out working  
20 with families to make sure that they stay protected.  
21 As they walk home with their children, as they step  
22 out to buy food. ICE is not looking for these people  
23 in particular. They're stopping Latino New Yorkers,  
24 questioning them and then disappearing them from our  
25 streets in a matter of seconds. Literally seconds. We

2 are grateful for the City's efforts on behalf of  
3 families impacted by ICE enforcement today. In  
4 particular, funding legal services so that we could  
5 get people representation and advice. Make the Road  
6 is a rapid response legal provider, and we assist  
7 dozens of families impacted by ICE enforcement each  
8 week. Our organizers are literally flyering, helping  
9 (TIMER CHIME) people knock on doors, telling them  
10 about know your rights so that we could keep each  
11 other protected because we cannot depend on this  
12 Administration to protect us. But we need real  
13 accountability against ICE blatant disregard for our  
14 sanctuary laws. Passing the New York City Trust Act  
15 will establish a private rights of action that will  
16 enable anybody whose rights are violated to hold  
17 local entities responsible. Families of immigrants  
18 will feel more secure when utilizing essential City  
19 services like attending school, making a police  
20 report, or visiting a public hospital as a result.  
21 Our members are scared. When Mayor Adams allowed ICE  
22 back into Rikers, it was a clear violation of our  
23 detainer laws. It showed to immigrant New Yorkers  
24 that we were reverting to our old ways that would  
25 seek to push Trump's agenda. It was not until the New

2 York State Supreme Court stepped in that we were able  
3 to block this. This is why Intro. 1412, which  
4 prohibits establishment of an office on New York City  
5 Department of Corrections property by any federal  
6 entity engaged in federal immigration enforcement.  
7 This also ensures that our sanctuary city rules apply  
8 to all federal entities involved in immigration  
9 enforcement. We cannot, and I say this again, we  
10 cannot allow any future mayors to use New Yorkers as  
11 a political pawn and truly ensure that ICE will not  
12 have a place at Rikers or in New York City. I want to  
13 thank Council Members Hanif, Avilés, and Cabán for  
14 their leadership in pushing legislation forward that  
15 will further secure our sanctuary laws and ensure  
16 that our members feel safe in New York City, the  
17 place they all call home. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

19 Before we open it up to questions for  
20 this panel, I want to recognize we've been joined by  
21 Council Member Shekhar Krishnan and Council Member  
22 Brewer.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. Not a  
24 question, but a comment. Please remind me of your  
25 name. Sorry.

2 BRIANNA ABREU: Hi. My name is Brianna  
3 Abreu. I'm a social worker.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: The story that you  
5 shared, devastating. And I feel a lot of, one, I want  
6 to extend just an apology and that I am feeling shame  
7 on behalf of my Colleagues in government for the  
8 trauma, the fear, the violence. I know we're going to  
9 hear lots more testimony like the ones that we just  
10 heard, but I wanted to be up front and name that. And  
11 thank you all, again, for showing up the way that you  
12 do. I said it outside, and now I'll say it here. It  
13 is you all that make me deeply, deeply proud to be a  
14 New Yorker and to have the privilege to attempt to  
15 represent you all well. Thanks.

16 BRIANNA ABREU: Thank you so much. Also on  
17 behalf of our client, Jennifer.

18 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Council Member Hanif.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: On behalf of your  
20 client, Jennifer, could you just share how she's  
21 doing right now and what are some upcoming  
22 appointments or legal work that's coming up?

23 And then for Rosa, I wanted to ask about  
24 from a defender's point of view, could you walk us  
25 through the process of DOC honoring a request for

2 notification? How is it different from honoring a  
3 detainer request?

4 BRIANNA ABREU: When I last spoke to  
5 Jennifer, she mentioned the trauma and the impact  
6 still impact her to this very day. Whenever she  
7 applies for work, when she gets to the point where  
8 they ask for a background check, that's typically  
9 where she sees all her dreams come to a halt. Because  
10 of the collusion between ICE and ACS, she feels that  
11 she's unable to really rebuild her life. She so  
12 desperately wants to, just like many immigrants,  
13 including myself, I also am an immigrant, to rebuild  
14 her life, provide for her family, and just be able to  
15 move past the trauma that she already endured in her  
16 home country and then to seek to rebuild a new life  
17 here is impossible for her because ICE and ACS worked  
18 together in order to prevent her from true  
19 liberation. And so Jennifer, she isn't joining us  
20 today because the fear still follows her, and so  
21 we're here to tell her story, and we're so proud for  
22 the opportunity and to be able to tell her story. But  
23 saddened, it's a bittersweet moment, and we share the  
24 rage as well because of how ACS and ICE and other  
25 local agencies work together. It's not providing real

2 justice for families throughout New York, and that's  
3 why it's so important to advocate for this  
4 Introduction 214. And thank you to the entire Council  
5 for introducing these bills because it's so important  
6 that we advocate for the families like Jennifer's as  
7 well as the other stories that we heard today on this  
8 panel.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And you shared that  
10 she's got kids. Could you remind me how many and what  
11 age?

12 BRIANNA ABREU: Yes, she has two children.  
13 I believe they're both under 18 years old, and so  
14 she's so desperately wanting to provide for them who  
15 are both children. But it seems for her that it's  
16 impossible for her to truly have a clean slate, which  
17 is what she so badly wanted when she came to this  
18 country from her native origin.

19 ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: Thank you, Council  
20 Member. I'll first just note that I'm actually going  
21 to be testifying again in my public defender  
22 capacity. This was me reading Kelvin's testimony, but  
23 I'm happy to answer your question now or with the  
24 other panel, whatever you prefer.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: You can give us a  
3 preview.

4 ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: Yeah, great. I'm happy  
5 to do that. Yeah, so your question is a very  
6 important one. It speaks to one of the ways we've  
7 seen the Department of Corrections continue to  
8 violate the detainer laws. As you may remember, back  
9 in 2023, the Department of Corrections testified that  
10 they had never been presented with a judicial warrant  
11 by ICE, but to transfer custody to honor a detainer,  
12 the Department of Corrections, the requirement is a  
13 judicial warrant and one of the 177 convictions. What  
14 they do instead is they say that they're honoring a  
15 request for notification, which by the text of the  
16 statute and sort of just the plain language is  
17 supposed to be just to notify ICE of when someone is  
18 being released. Instead, and you'll hear myself and  
19 my colleagues and the defender colleagues testify  
20 about this, they allow ICE to actually physically  
21 enter Rikers Island, walk into someone's cell, and  
22 take custody of them. That is a transfer of custody.  
23 There's never a moment of liberty that that person  
24 has. So they claim that they're just notifying. They  
25 claim that they are following the law by notifying,

2 but in fact we're seeing a transfer of custody, and  
3 I'm personally hoping that under the next  
4 Administration we'll see the Department and MOIA work  
5 together to implement much stronger guidance on what  
6 it actually means to follow this law, and I'm hoping,  
7 of course, that your bill, Intro. 214, will pass to  
8 really hold these agencies accountable to, in fact,  
9 following the law.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: So just to follow  
11 up, you're saying that ICE agents don't need a  
12 warrant? Once DOC is notified, they can just go in  
13 without the judicial warrant?

14 ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: Under the law, they  
15 absolutely need a warrant. What they have been doing  
16 is using the request for notification to get around  
17 the judicial warrant requirement. I was hoping they  
18 would be here today so they could be asked whether  
19 they've been presented with any judicial warrants  
20 this year. It doesn't look like their testimony  
21 includes any of that information either, so it's hard  
22 to know, but my guess is, and what we've seen in the  
23 public defender community, is that they continue to  
24 essentially effectuate honoring detainers without the

2 judicial warrant requirement being met, and we've  
3 seen that happen this year multiple times.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you, and I know  
6 that has been a request of the community for a long  
7 time to get clear guidance, and MOIA has ignored  
8 their responsibility to correct this issue  
9 administratively, so thank you all for your testimony  
10 today. I really appreciate it.

11 We're going to call our next... oh, don't  
12 go. Sorry. Spoke too soon. Council Member Krishnan.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Thank you,  
14 Chair. Sorry.

15 Just one question to follow up on that. I  
16 think it's egregious that these warrant and detainer  
17 laws are not being followed. You kind of alluded to  
18 it at the end, but have you seen DOC increasingly  
19 ignoring or doing away with the warrant requirement  
20 and honoring detainees? Has there been an uptick in  
21 the last year since the presidential elections last  
22 fall? I'm just curious to know what you all are  
23 seeing in the public defender community.

24 ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: Unfortunately, this  
25 practice has been consistent, and that's why it's a

2 real shame that we even have to be here today still  
3 talking about the New York City Trust Act because in  
4 the oversight hearing two years ago, we testified in  
5 great detail, the defender community testified in  
6 great detail about this practice. And since then, we  
7 have seen the Department of Corrections and the NYPD  
8 being found to have violated the laws, as Chair  
9 Avilés spoke about in her introductory remarks so  
10 it's really shocking that these patterns have  
11 continued, and there's been no training, no guidance,  
12 no attempt at creating accountability, and I think  
13 all of this speaks to the need for the law. So, yeah,  
14 unfortunately, it hasn't even been an increase,  
15 although I'd say that the treatment and the  
16 egregiousness and sort of the expansion of ICE in  
17 every facet of our life and I'd say the involvement  
18 of NYPD and their explicit collusion with ICE has  
19 increased under this Administration.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Thank you. Thank  
21 you, Chair.

22 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Council Member  
23 Brewer.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I'm sorry. I know  
3 we want to keep moving, but what the hell did ACS  
4 tell you about this?

5 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: I, unfortunately, am not  
6 the attorney that worked on this case. I'm happy to  
7 provide the attorney's testimony on what exactly the  
8 response was. If I remember correctly, I think it was  
9 a lot of pointing fingers probably, but I'm not  
10 exactly sure of the specifics.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

12 MEDHA VENUGOPAL: I'm sorry about that.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: That's okay. It's  
14 shocking.

15 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you. Thank you  
16 to this panel.

17 We're going to call the next panel.

18 Giovanatta, Mina Farahman, Ana Vera, Jason Smith,  
19 Alana Tornello, and KC Wagner.

20 Great. Thank you so much for being here.  
21 I guess you want to start? Just make sure to press  
22 the button.

23 JASON SMITH: Hello, everyone. I was not  
24 expecting to go first, but here we are...

2 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: You could pass it to  
3 your neighbor if you want.

4 JASON SMITH: Okay.

5 ANA VERA: Good morning. Thank you to the  
6 Committee on Immigration for holding this public  
7 hearing to address the urgent need to protect our  
8 immigrant communities in New York City. My name is  
9 Ana, and this is my first time testifying at a City  
10 Council hearing and I'm very excited to be here today  
11 representing the youth of the New York State Youth  
12 Leadership Council. The NYSYLC was founded in 2007  
13 and was the first undocumented youth led organization  
14 in New York, and we work with immigrant and  
15 undocumented youth in the city to empower them to  
16 create change in their communities. The NYSYLC is  
17 most known for writing and introducing the New York  
18 State Dream Act in 2011, and the NYSYLC envisions an  
19 inclusive society where currently and formerly  
20 undocumented youth belong and thrive and are  
21 unafraid, which is what's currently being attacked.  
22 Less than a year less than a year into a second Trump  
23 presidency, it has become horrifyingly clear how far  
24 this federal administration will go in its efforts to  
25 detain and deport immigrant members of our

2 communities. We have also witnessed the mayoral  
3 administration's attempt to evade and undermine our  
4 City's long-standing hard-fought protections for  
5 immigrant New Yorkers in order to serve the Mayor's  
6 own self-interest. New York City sanctuary laws are  
7 essential to maintaining trust among community  
8 members and ensuring the safety of all New Yorkers.

9 As our City government enters another period of  
10 transition, it is imperative that the City Council  
11 acts swiftly to ensure that our City's commitment to  
12 welcoming and protecting immigrants is ironclad. Our  
13 local laws must provide clear prohibitions against  
14 colluding with immigration authorities and must also  
15 include real disincentives for violating those laws.  
16 For those reasons, I am testifying today on behalf of  
17 all of the New York State Youth Leadership Council  
18 Members to urge this Council to act swiftly to pass a  
19 New York City Trust Act and Intro. 1412. When  
20 immigrant New Yorkers lack confidence that City  
21 agencies and their representative won't communicate  
22 and collude with ICE, either due to rhetoric from  
23 local leaders or examples of violations of our laws,  
24 this gives way to mistrust while this gives way to  
25 mistrust and fear. Research has demonstrated how fear

2 and other barriers often prevent immigrants from  
3 accessing public services they're eligible for. Under  
4 the current presidential administration, the fear  
5 that undocumented immigrants carry as they go about  
6 their daily lives has escalated, deterring many from  
7 taking care of their most basic needs. About two  
8 months ago, a youth member of the NYSYLC got hit by a  
9 car and she did not seek medical help because she had  
10 seen reports that there had been ICE presence near  
11 Elmhurst Hospital in Queens. She feared that she  
12 would get (TIMER CHIME) detained. The heightened  
13 presence of the NYPD in our communities creates fear  
14 and an unsafe environment, and there is so much  
15 uncertainty of the NYPD collaboration with  
16 immigration officers. Just last week, we saw how NYPD  
17 showed up to Canal Street to protect ICE agents from  
18 the people who were protesting them and who were  
19 actually there to protect the immigrant community of  
20 Canal. How can we believe that the NYPD is here to  
21 protect and serve all New Yorkers when we see them  
22 assaulting and arresting community members to protect  
23 federal agents? The Trump Administration's continuous  
24 attacks on immigrants will only escalate. New York  
25 City needs to be prepared for what is to come and not

2 waiver when it comes to protecting the rights of  
3 millions of immigrants and undocumented residents who  
4 called this city, our city, their home. The Council  
5 must act now to pass the New York City Trust Act and  
6 Intro. 1412 and continue to fortify and reinforce the  
7 New York City government entities will not collude  
8 with immigration authorities. We will continue to  
9 fight for the liberation of our people, and we hope  
10 that you join us on that fight. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

12 MINA FARAHMAN: Okay. Thank you for  
13 holding this hearing. My name is Mina Farahman, and  
14 I'm here from the New York City Union of Students.  
15 We're also here from the Livable Future Package, a  
16 youth-led movement speaking in support of the New  
17 York City Trust Act, Intro. 214 The federal  
18 administration has shown us that their immigration  
19 agenda is one that disregards the core of our human  
20 rights. Only a few days ago, they separated and  
21 detained a six-year-old child from his father, and  
22 the Trump Administration fired eight New York City  
23 immigration judges last week in an effort to make it  
24 easier for the federal government to conduct a mass  
25 deportation agenda. I speak for my fellow youth and

2 their families when I say this is unacceptable.

3 There's no sign this federal agenda will get better

4 without us fighting back, putting teeth on our

5 sanctuary city laws as the ICE budget finds a nearly

6 fourfold increase. We are in a state of emergency,

7 and the NYPD has been found complicit with this

8 agenda. A report last week found on November 21st,

9 2024, an NYPD officer assigned to a homeland

10 security investigations violent gang task force

11 placed automated alerts on individuals sought for

12 potential civil immigration enforcement, allowing

13 notifications if they appeared in NYPD systems. The

14 Department of Investigations in New York City

15 determined this violated both Department policy and

16 City law. What you are hearing from us today is that

17 New York City collaboration with the federal

18 draconian immigration enforcement agenda is

19 completely unacceptable. New York City agency's

20 history of illegally working with ICE must go on no

21 longer. In this state of emergency, we need to act to

22 stop our City's complicity with an anti-human rights

23 agenda. The New York City Council must pass the New

24 York City Trust Act to enforce our sanctuary city

25 laws because financial restitution is a strong and

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2 effective deterrent against breaking our human rights

3 laws, and it gives power to the people irreparably

4 harmed by collusion with ICE. Our sanctuary city must

5 extend to every part of this city, including Rikers

6 Island, which is also why I speak in favor of Intro.

7 1412. New York City Council, make the right choice.

8 Stand for strong sanctuary city laws in the state of

9 emergency and end our complicity with an anti-human

10 rights agenda.

11 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you, Mina.

12 GIOVANATTA MARANGON: Thank you honorable

13 Council Members for this opportunity to speak in

14 front of you all. My name is Giovanatta Marangon. I

15 currently reside in Midtown. I'm a student at CUNY

16 proud granddaughter of immigrants, and I'm here from

17 New York City DSA and more than 12 other youth

18 organizations in the Livable Future Coalition,

19 Council Members, according to The City as of three

20 days ago, since July through October, ICE has

21 kidnapped off the streets at least 858 New Yorkers.

22 In CUNY, more than a third of students were born in

23 another country. Half are the first to receive a

24 formal education. An estimated 5,000 as of 2019 are

25 undocumented. Yet just last year, 20 Baruch students

2 had their visas canceled and their future in the city  
3 brought into question for simply exercising their  
4 constitutional rights and risked for deportation from  
5 ICE. I think of my family. My grandparents who had to  
6 experience the horror and terror of police  
7 interrogations because they came from the criminal  
8 country known as Italy during the Red Scare. Now 70  
9 years later, this continues and only worsens with our  
10 fascist administration. In times of lawlessness in  
11 Washington, it is our duty to pick up the flag as New  
12 Yorkers and in City Council and be the face of law.  
13 In times of cowardice, it is our duty to be the face  
14 of courage. History will not be kind to these  
15 xenophobic attacks on our immigrant neighbors. But we  
16 have to stand up and do our part here in City  
17 Council. I plead with City Council to pass Intro.  
18 214, the New York City Trust Act, because we need  
19 real accountability from above. Our rapid response  
20 networks across the city and Know Your Rights  
21 training are merely harm reduction, but we need to  
22 fight back in City Hall. To bring this to my own  
23 experience, CUNY has sanctuary city laws on the books  
24 already, but nothing stops this from being reversed  
25 in a heartbeat by CUNY which receives millions in

2 funding from the federal government. We need to  
3 protect our immigrant neighbors here by establishing  
4 a legal pathway to enforce these sanctuary city laws  
5 against city employees who may collaborate with ICE,  
6 and that includes the NYPD especially. And I also  
7 want to extend this as well and urge to pass Intro.  
8 1412. I spent a lot of my life in Rockland County,  
9 only an hour train ride and bus ride away from the  
10 city. In Rockland, there are few to no protections  
11 for our immigrant neighbors. And I was at my best  
12 friend's birthday recently and she told me that she  
13 did not feel safe, she didn't feel a future in New  
14 York, that she hopes her family who came from  
15 Pakistan remains untouched by ICE even though they're  
16 here legally. It is our duty here in New York to  
17 protect everyone in our metropolitan area by denying  
18 ICE's operation at every turn in New York to ensure  
19 our neighbors cannot be kidnapped by (TIMER CHIME)  
20 ICE to New York City using Rikers Island and deny  
21 them a hub in the center of this metropolitan area  
22 and protect all of our immigrant families across the  
23 tri-state area. Once again, I urge you to pass Intro.  
24 1412 and 214. Thank you so much for this opportunity  
25 and speaking on these today.

2 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

3 KC WAGNER: Thank you to the Committee on  
4 immigration for holding this hearing. My name is KC  
5 Wagner, and I'm a member of Hand in Hand: The  
6 Domestic Employers Network, a national organization  
7 of families, older adults, and disabled New Yorkers  
8 who employ care workers including nannies, homecare  
9 workers, and house cleaners. Immigrant workers, many  
10 of whom are undocumented, have green cards or  
11 naturalized citizens and are facing real threats. ICE  
12 continues to racially profile and collude with City  
13 agencies like the NYPD and Department of Corrections,  
14 putting families and workers at risk of detention,  
15 deportation, and family separation. These attacks  
16 don't just harm individuals. They undermine the care  
17 systems we all rely on. As a member of Hand in Hand,  
18 we also partner with domestic worker community-based  
19 organizations and New York affiliates of the National  
20 Domestic Workers Alliance in addition to local  
21 electeds and I lift up my glass to Council Member  
22 Hanif in her incredible support of the work that we  
23 have done with Carroll Gardens Neighborhood  
24 Association. I am a proud and eternally grateful  
25 granddaughter to both my sets of grandparents who

2 came through Ellis Island and became naturalized  
3 citizens. I am also a proud and eternally grateful  
4 past employer of four immigrant caregivers to my  
5 elderly mother as she suffered with dementia over a  
6 decade, especially when they were there during her  
7 dying days. They provided love, compassion, and  
8 provided eternal support so that they made my ability  
9 to work possible. This bill would create a private  
10 right of action, allowing anybody whose rights are  
11 violated by the City, and the bill I'm referring to  
12 is the New York City Trust Act, Intro. 214. It will  
13 allow anybody whose rights are being violated by City  
14 agencies to bring a lawsuit and hold those agencies  
15 accountable. Right now, violations of New York City's  
16 sanctuary laws happen regularly including documented  
17 cases of DOC and ACS sharing information with ICE,  
18 but there is no clear way to enforce the law (TIMER  
19 CHIME) or seek recourse. Strong sanctuary protections  
20 are essential, not only for immigrant safety, but for  
21 the safe and health of our city as a whole. When  
22 immigrant New Yorkers fear local agencies, it erodes  
23 trust, discourages reporting of crime, and prevents  
24 families from accessing essential services. Passing  
25 the Trust Act ensures the City agencies cannot

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2 violate these protections with impunity and that  
3 immigrant families can live without the constant fear  
4 of detention or separation. I urge the City Council  
5 to act swiftly and pass the New York City Trust Act  
6 and protect the safety, dignity, and rights of  
7 immigrant New Yorkers. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you, KC.

9 Alana.

10 ALANA TORNELLO: Thank you, Council  
11 Members, for this hearing and for this opportunity to  
12 testify. My name is Alana. I represent the Human  
13 Services Council. We're a coalition of over 180 human  
14 services providers in New York, and we provide  
15 lifelines for millions of New Yorkers. New York City  
16 is our home, and we need to make damn sure that this  
17 home is a sanctuary. For us human services workers,  
18 this is what sanctuary and safety means. It means  
19 housing, food security, employment support, legal  
20 services, and the many other ways we show up for one  
21 another, especially for our immigrant neighbors  
22 including the ways we're showing up today including  
23 the legislation that you're proposing. Lifelines that  
24 we are providing are being disrupted because our  
25 neighbors are afraid to leave home, because our

2 workers are targeted for providing care, and our  
3 sanctuary laws that protect us are being violated,  
4 and this is a profound test and the test is dangerous  
5 federal overreach and abuse of power. We witness  
6 communities being torn apart by legal enforcement and  
7 policies that are targeting neighbors regardless of  
8 legal status or history. Meanwhile, New Yorkers still  
9 lack affordable and secure housing, food, and other  
10 essentials even as organizations who provide these  
11 essentials are being targeted with unprecedented cuts  
12 and politicization. This is creating a poly crisis  
13 and what's really needed is access to community  
14 support. We do not need and New Yorkers do not want  
15 expanded federal enforcement, which is exacerbating  
16 our pre-existing crises and it would make New York  
17 City and is making New York City less safe for  
18 everyone. With that in mind, City leaders and human  
19 services leaders must act in close coordination to  
20 prioritize community support and to strengthen  
21 protections for our City's sanctuary infrastructure.  
22 So with that in mind, we support the proposed local  
23 laws including Intro. 214, The New York City Trust  
24 Act, Intro. 1268, Intro. 1412, Intro. 1272.  
25 Additionally, the City should join human services

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2 leaders in our crisis response, emergency budgeting  
3 scenario planning, and advocacy to create a more  
4 comprehensive strategy to protect communities, and  
5 this includes prioritizing expansion of human  
6 services, especially legal services and the use of  
7 emergency resources. As many of my colleagues have  
8 already said, I believe being a New Yorker means  
9 being in covenant with one another and that means we  
10 show up for one another during crisis. As we heard,  
11 the crisis has been here. Crisis is also coming and  
12 the proposed legislation and other actions that I'm  
13 hearing from my colleagues here today are critical in  
14 getting ahead of the incoming storms. So, thank you  
15 and please refer to our written testimony for more  
16 recommendations.

17 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

18 Jason.

19 JASON SMITH: Yes. Good morning, everyone.  
20 I stand here as a future emergency room physician at  
21 a New Yorker and community member this is my first  
22 time testifying and I represent and NYSYLC. I would  
23 first like to thank our Council Members for taking  
24 the time to listen to us. This truly means a lot.  
25 Before I start, I would like to acknowledge all of

2 our siblings who were stripped and disappeared from  
3 us? I would also like to acknowledge Marie Ange  
4 Blaise, a Haitian national, and the many others who  
5 negligently died in ICE custody. Personally, I would  
6 like to share that I was a victim of an assault and  
7 was afraid to report due to the complexities of our  
8 justice system. This assault resulted in an expensive  
9 journey, whereas I had to spend hundreds of dollars  
10 on therapy, medication management, stable housing,  
11 and anxiety. I should not be afraid to seek justice.  
12 With the passing of this bill, people like me would  
13 not be afraid to seek help with the fear of possibly  
14 being placed on the radar or having personal  
15 information shared with federal officials. This very  
16 same issue is prominent and constant. There are many  
17 undocumented individuals afraid of reporting due to  
18 this matter. Every single day, our oppressors try to  
19 tear us apart and isolate our communities and, in  
20 spite of their plans to do so, we become even more  
21 united. In spite of their divisive tactics, we grow  
22 stronger as a community. Let me be clear, I'm not  
23 catering to any municipal government official who are  
24 simply unable to put their money where their mouth  
25 is. Too often we are seeing elective officials show

2 up only when there is large crowds or an abundance of  
3 cameras and media crew. It hurts my heart to see NYPD  
4 officials assaulting vulnerable members within our  
5 communities such as elderly people, disabled people,  
6 and so on. The reason be being is simply because  
7 members of our communities are placing their bodies  
8 on the line. Furthermore, from my mouth to your ears,  
9 I want to make it very clear that our rights are not  
10 trends and bandwagons to be hopped on. Our human  
11 rights are not political platforms, only convenience  
12 to boost platforms for elections. We're not numbers.  
13 We are human beings. It saddens me to know that our  
14 local government has the power to protect us and yet  
15 we're currently pleading for the passing of the New  
16 York City Trust Act, specifically Intro. 214. We have  
17 so much on our plates to address already. Therefore,  
18 I'm calling on our elected officials to join us at  
19 the table and address what's on our plates. I'm  
20 calling for a moral renewal and a sense of civic  
21 grace and virtue within our municipal government. Let  
22 me be clear. The harmful practices that are taking  
23 place deters New York City residents from seeking  
24 justice of any wrongdoing. It further handicaps a  
25 system that is already not so just. We require a

2 renewed sense of hope within our justice system.

3 Unfortunately, the justice system we require is not

4 dispensable by machines or upheld (TIMER CHIME) by

5 any form of institutional systems. Our justice is

6 upheld by the people, and it is clear today that the

7 people of this great city demands justice and

8 accountability. We demand a city whereas all of our

9 residents can flourish and live peacefully, free from

10 external control suppression. We demand a City

11 government that will uphold and honor our laws and

12 people. I'm calling for a city whereas all of our

13 precious students can attend and attain an education

14 without fear. I'm calling for a city whereas

15 residents in need of medical care can confidently do

16 so. If not, we require full transparency and we also

17 demand the full protection of our neighbors. In other

18 words, despite all of the atrocities taking place

19 within our city and beyond, I remain hopeful and

20 optimistic that a just and equitable future lies

21 ahead of us. The people of this great city always

22 wins. So, I'm asking that this local government help

23 sustain a foundation for us to win. Human rights

24 should never be a debate or herring. Human rights

25 ought to be automatic, respective of sex, religion,

2 ethnicity, race, social position, or immigration  
3 status. It is my hope that our city can get it right.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you, Jason. For  
6 your first time, pretty good. You survived.

7 JASON SMITH: Thank you so much.

8 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: I just wanted to  
9 underscore. I mean, I think one of the common themes  
10 in many of the testimony here is something that Ana  
11 said and certainly you all say is that when New  
12 Yorkers lack confidence in our institutions and in  
13 our government, it continues to make us significantly  
14 less safe, and I hear you very clearly when you're  
15 saying do better because we deserve better as New  
16 Yorkers, and we will continue to commit to do better  
17 So I just want to thank the panel for their  
18 testimony.

19 Do you have questions?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you. I Just  
21 wanted to say that the antidote to fear is organizing  
22 and each one of you are contributing to that work  
23 that City government is failing to or delaying to do  
24 and it just shows the humanity that exists in our  
25 city and the ability to Make New York what it is. We

2 want people to be safe. We want young people to  
3 understand that their peers have their back. The  
4 college and high school organizing that I've seen  
5 taking place, and this was also happening I would say  
6 10 years ago when I was an undergrad at Brooklyn  
7 College, really catalyzed how I advocate for my  
8 community and for specifically young leaders, and so  
9 I just want to thank the Youth Leadership Council,  
10 YDSA, Livable Futures, you all have been on the front  
11 line for many, many months now to get 214 to the  
12 finish line and, trust me, your voices are being  
13 heard by the Administration, whether they like it or  
14 not. They are hearing you loud and clear, and I'll  
15 tell you they are really annoyed but the great thing  
16 is we're going to keep at it so thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you Council  
18 Member.

19 We're going to the next panel. We'll have  
20 Deborah Lee, Catherine Gonzalez, Scott Foletta, Tania  
21 Matos, Brittany Brown, and Rosa Cohen-Cruz. Again,  
22 one more time, Deborah Lee, Catherine Gonzalez, Scott  
23 Foletta, Tania Matos, Brittany Brown, and Rosa  
24 Cohen-Cruz.

25 Would you like to start Deborah?

2 DEBORAH LEE: Yes. Thank you. Good  
3 morning, Chair Avilés and Members of the Committee.  
4 Thank you for this opportunity to testify today. In  
5 particular, I'm going to focus on Intro. 1412, the  
6 Safer Sanctuary Act, and Intro. 214, the New York  
7 City Trust Act. My name is Deborah Lee, and I'm the  
8 Attorney-in-Charge of the Immigration Law Unit at the  
9 Legal Aid Society. These bills are essential to  
10 preserving the integrity of New York City's sanctuary  
11 framework, a framework built on hard lessons from our  
12 past. Before the City Council passed the 2014  
13 detainer laws, U.S. Immigration and Customs  
14 Enforcement, ICE, had a pervasive presence on Rikers  
15 Island. Federal agents combed through New York City  
16 Department of Corrections, DOC, data to identify  
17 foreign-born individuals, conducted coercive  
18 interviews of such individuals without counsel or  
19 interpreters, and pressured them to sign away their  
20 rights in languages they did not understand. These  
21 practices violated due process, prolonged  
22 incarcerations, and tore New York City families  
23 apart, all while eroding trust between immigrant  
24 communities and local government. The Council acted  
25 decisively in 2014 because these harms were real and

2 widespread. As Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito said at  
3 the time, these protections were about dignity,  
4 fairness, and keeping families together. They were  
5 designed to ensure that people held on low-level  
6 charges or simply because they could not afford bail  
7 would not be fast-tracked for deportation. Sanctuary  
8 laws were passed to protect New Yorkers and uphold  
9 the integrity of our justice system, regardless of  
10 who is our president. Today, the Council is  
11 buttressing those protections. Intro. 1412 closes a  
12 dangerous loophole by prohibiting ICE from  
13 maintaining an office or quarters on land under DOC  
14 jurisdiction. This ensures that our jails do not  
15 become hunting grounds for immigration enforcement  
16 and that the trust immigrant communities place in the  
17 City is not betrayed. Intro. 214 strengthens  
18 enforcement of our existing detainer laws by creating  
19 a private right of action against City employees who  
20 violate these laws. This is critical because laws  
21 without remedies are hollow. When local agencies  
22 violate detainer laws, that harm is profound not only  
23 to individuals and families, but to public trust in  
24 government. Accountability is the only way to ensure  
25 compliance and uphold the promise of equal justice.

2 For nearly 150 years, the Legal Aid Society has  
3 fought to uphold equal justice for all New Yorkers.  
4 Last year alone, we served over 480,000 individuals,  
5 including thousands of immigrants who rely on us to  
6 defend their rights. We know that when local  
7 government stands (TIMER CHIME) firm against federal  
8 overreach, communities thrive. These bills are  
9 essential to maintaining that commitment. Thank you  
10 for your leadership and for standing with all New  
11 Yorkers.

12 CATHERINE GONZALEZ: Good morning. My name  
13 is Catherine Gonzalez. I am Associate General Counsel  
14 at Brooklyn Defender Services. I thank you for this  
15 hearing, for introducing these bills that are pending  
16 to update and strengthen the laws that we already  
17 have in our city. At Brooklyn Defender Services, we  
18 represent thousands of people in New York City who  
19 are accused of a crime, facing the removal of their  
20 children, or deportation. Through specialized units,  
21 we provide extensive wraparound services to meet the  
22 needs of people with legal system involvement and, as  
23 public defenders representing these people, we saw  
24 firsthand how ICE agents profiled and coerced people  
25 in Department of Corrections custody as Miss Lee has

2 testified prior to the passage of the detainer laws  
3 in 2014, and those activities by DOC and ICE back  
4 then violated due process and targeted New Yorkers  
5 based on racial and national origin profiling. The  
6 actions of ICE agents back then interfered with  
7 people's involvement in the legal system and trampled  
8 on their due process right to being able to access  
9 New York City Courts and the legal system, and the  
10 City ended that direct corroboration with ICE a  
11 decade ago in order to reduce inequities and  
12 disruptions and to safeguard due process. With the  
13 issuance of New York City Executive Order 50 earlier  
14 this year, we saw a profound magnifying of the fear  
15 that immigrant New Yorkers are seeing in their  
16 communities. Since then, many people that we serve  
17 and their families have expressed real fear, not only  
18 that being incarcerated at Rikers might expose them  
19 to ICE, but even simply visiting a loved one there at  
20 Rikers could subject someone to immigration  
21 enforcement. That fear has lingered even after the  
22 judge's ruling issuing that the executive order is  
23 null and void. Even though that court decision was  
24 supposed to bring finality and did bring finality to  
25 the issue, in the time since then, many of the people

2 that we represent and their families continue to  
3 express this heightened anxiety at any contact with  
4 Rikers Island, that ICE might show up or that their  
5 presence there could trigger immigration enforcement  
6 in some messed-up way. Because of this lasting  
7 damage, the moment is now for the City to act  
8 decisively. Passing the New York City Trust Act,  
9 Introduction 214, and the Safer Sanctuary Act,  
10 Introduction 1412, to update and strengthen the  
11 City's detainer discretion laws would help ensure  
12 these needed protections, reinforce the sanctuary  
13 safeguards that already exist, and rebuild trust with  
14 immigrant New Yorkers who should not have to choose  
15 between supporting their loved ones and fearing  
16 deportation. Thank you for your time.

17 SCOTT FOLETTA: Good morning. My name is  
18 Scott Foletta, and I'm the Managing Attorney for the  
19 Immigration Defense Team at the Neighborhood Defender  
20 Service of Harlem, a community-based holistic public  
21 defender office that has provided high-quality  
22 representation to residents of Upper Manhattan who  
23 can't afford an attorney for over 30 years. In 2022,  
24 after a routine appearance in criminal court, a  
25 client of NDS who had lived in New York City for

2 nearly three decades was handed over to ICE agents  
3 despite the fact that he had no felony record and  
4 none of the triggers for compliance with our City's  
5 detainer law. Without knowing what was happening, he  
6 was put in a van and driven across state lines to a  
7 prison where other inmates told him we are going to  
8 be deported. He felt like he had just been kidnapped.  
9 Within days of his detention, he started to lose  
10 weight because of medical conditions that were not  
11 being treated, but it wasn't until he lost 50 pounds  
12 that he was hospitalized. He was terrified of the  
13 possibility of being deported to Ukraine, a country  
14 from which he and his family had fled from  
15 persecution decades earlier and which was now an  
16 active war zone. After filing applications, motions,  
17 appeals, bond requests, habeas, NDS was finally able  
18 to free him but only after he had spent 18 months of  
19 his life in detention. Around the same time, FOIL  
20 requests revealed that during the previous Trump  
21 Administration, employees of City law enforcement  
22 agencies had cooperated with ICE deportations,  
23 sometimes working behind the backs of defense  
24 attorneys to communicate with ICE and facilitate  
25 violations of the City's detainer law. When pressed

2 by this Council, this Committee, about these  
3 revelations, representatives of those agencies did  
4 not identify any discipline that was carried out or  
5 consequences that resulted from those brazen  
6 violations of our laws. They simply said that was a  
7 different administration. It already happened. Our  
8 city's residents can't afford a repeat of this  
9 scenario. We can't come back in a year, two years,  
10 three years, finding out belatedly that there have  
11 been violations of the detainer law through FOIL  
12 requests and then have these agencies sit here again  
13 to shrug and say what's done is done or not even show  
14 up. This Council must ensure that there's  
15 accountability for violations of our sanctuary laws  
16 by passing Intros 214 and 1412. Thank you.

17 BRITTANY BROWN: Thank you to the  
18 Committee on Immigration for holding this public  
19 hearing to address the urgent need to protect our  
20 immigrant communities in New York City. My name is  
21 Brittany Brown. I am the Supervising Attorney of the  
22 Collateral Consequences Unit at New York County  
23 Defender Services. The proposed New York City Trust  
24 Act legislation would not be addressing a theoretical  
25 harm. The most recent example of a violation occurred

2 just last week. On December 1st, 2025, one of our  
3 clients was released from DOC custody to ICE custody  
4 in clear violation of our City's detainer laws. When  
5 we asked DOC Legal about this, they told us that they  
6 are legally able to communicate with ICE and that  
7 it's safer for ICE to take custody of our client  
8 rather than make an arrest on the street. DOC admits  
9 there was no judicial warrant for our client. DOC  
10 clearly violated City law by handing our client to  
11 ICE. When pressed further as to their communication  
12 with ICE and any documentation, they told us to  
13 submit a FOIL, another disingenuous statement because  
14 a FOIL request requires a signature from the subject  
15 of inquiry and DOC knows or should know that when  
16 they handed our client over to ICE and ICE swiftly  
17 transferred him out of state, he became unreachable.  
18 Our client is currently in an immigration detention  
19 facility in Virginia without any family, without  
20 legal representation, hopelessly awaiting  
21 deportation. Our office also reached out to MOIA for  
22 assistance and received no response. This flagrant  
23 violation of the City's detainer law shows how  
24 critical the proposed legislation is. Without the New  
25 York City Trust Act, our client has no recourse and

2 without the New York City Trust Act, how will we ever  
3 get City employees to follow the law? Thank you.

4 TANIA MATTOS: Good morning, Chair Avilés  
5 and Council Members. My name is Tania Mattos. I'm the  
6 Executive Director of UnLocal. UnLocal is a non-  
7 profit organization dedicated to serving New York's  
8 immigrant communities through immigrant legal  
9 services and community education. UnLocal's team of  
10 lawyers, advocates, organizers, and social workers  
11 provide free services to immigrant communities  
12 throughout the five boroughs on immigration-related  
13 matters like workshops and legal representation,  
14 social work, supporting community events. Today, we  
15 are here to voice our strong support for all the  
16 bills, but especially for the New York Trust Act 214,  
17 Safer Sanctuary Act, and my testimony will focus on  
18 the New York City Trust Act. So, ICE has been in our  
19 communities and in the courts in New York and it's of  
20 vital importance that immigrant families feel safe  
21 and protected in our city. Every day, UnLocal  
22 community members tell us that they fear leaving  
23 their homes, go to work, drop off their children, and  
24 attend court or even come to our office. The Council  
25 must do everything in its power to show immigrant New

2 Yorkers that we remain committed to our promise as a  
3 sanctuary city, especially in such dangerous times.

4 The New York City Trust Act will affirm the City's  
5 commitment to keep immigrant New Yorkers safe and  
6 send a much-needed signal to those living in fear,  
7 that the New York City Police Department will not  
8 collaborate with ICE.

9                   And I'm going to go off a little bit from  
10 my testimony, but I read the letter from MOIA that  
11 was that was presented. I believe that MOIA has to  
12 show up when it's hard. They need to hold agencies  
13 accountable and work with agencies to follow the law.  
14 I see MOIA's role is to not follow the common path  
15 that they're following on now but they need to  
16 facilitate and defend against each and every arrest  
17 and deportation because that is what our communities  
18 are pleading for right now. That is exactly what  
19 they're asking for, is for our City and our leaders  
20 to defend our immigrant communities. So, we thank the  
21 City Council for your leadership when immigrant New  
22 Yorkers need your support the most. Thank you.

23                   ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: Hello, again. My name is  
24 Rosa Cohen-Cruz. I'm the Director of Immigration  
25 Policy for the Bronx Defenders. For years, our office

2 along with the other public defenders you see here  
3 have been raising the alarm bells about the  
4 violations of sanctuary laws by DOC and NYPD, and we  
5 strongly support the Safer Sanctuary Act and the New  
6 York City Trust Act and urge their swift passage.  
7 ICE's presence on Rikers undermines due process for  
8 the people we represent, creates fear and uncertainty  
9 for the loved ones of people at Rikers and for the  
10 people sitting on Rikers themselves, and is simply  
11 unnecessary. Regarding Intro. 214 in the February  
12 2023 oversight hearing, we detailed multiple  
13 suspicious practices that resulted in our clients  
14 going from the custody of New York City law  
15 enforcement agencies directly into the jaws of ICE,  
16 resulting in loss of liberty, undermining due  
17 process, and forcing families to endure trauma and  
18 separation. This happened regardless of the level of  
19 offence someone had been arrested for and even in  
20 instances where criminal cases had been dismissed.  
21 You've already heard about some of the ways NYPD and  
22 DOC have colluded with ICE in violation of our laws,  
23 but I'm just going to reiterate a few briefly. I'll  
24 start with NYPD. They've worked with ICE on home  
25 raids, claiming they are part of joint task forces,

2 but resulting in people being arrested for solely  
3 civil immigration enforcement. I did watch the body  
4 cam footage of the arrest of our client Kelvin  
5 Servita-Arocha and, during that arrest, NYPD and ICE  
6 were in an apartment having a chummy conversation  
7 while a family and children are sitting on the floor  
8 terrified, saying to each other is this guy yours or  
9 ours, not only dehumanizing the people in front of  
10 them but sending a clear message that their  
11 relationship with ICE is more important than their  
12 treatment of New Yorkers. In terms of the Department  
13 of Corrections, their abuses have continued.

14 Repeatedly, we've heard about how they allow ICE to  
15 walk into cells to take custody without a judicial  
16 warrant. We saw from the IDP FOIL presented in 2023  
17 that they were emailing DOC with the hashtag  
18 teamsendthemback, using clearly anti-immigrant animus  
19 in their illegal communications with ICE, and we've  
20 often believed and testified about the fact that DOC  
21 does what we call a slow walk of our clients where  
22 they delay administrative processes in order to buy  
23 time for ICE to arrive. I looked at DOC's testimony  
24 today where they said that the reason they oppose  
25 Intro. 214 is because it will be difficult for the

2 Department to differentiate in cases where an  
3 individual was held for an extended period of time  
4 due to a detainer versus other factors. That is just  
5 unacceptable. They are the Department of Corrections.  
6 They have the ability to and they should be  
7 accounting for every second that someone is in their  
8 custody, and the minute somebody goes beyond past  
9 their lawful time, they should be held accountable.  
10 It is truly unacceptable. It is an embarrassment, and  
11 I hope that the next Administration we see will make  
12 it clear to the Department of Corrections that there  
13 is no exception for their unlawful collusion with  
14 ICE. I want to say one last quick thing about MOIA,  
15 which is that in the past as you heard from some of  
16 my colleagues, we were able to reach out to MOIA for  
17 assistance. I remember in the last Administration, a  
18 client of ours being held for extra time in DOC  
19 custody and we reached out to MOIA on a weekend and  
20 they helped facilitate our client's release and that  
21 person was not obtained by ICE. That has not happened  
22 in the past four years. I hope to see a MOIA where  
23 that will that will happen again. I will cede the  
24 rest of my time to my written testimony, but thank  
25 you.

2 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you. Thank you  
3 so much to this panel. It is certainly you all whom  
4 we all call at all hours of the day and night. In  
5 addition, Deborah, I think my last one was to you.  
6 Yeah, to support our community members so thank you  
7 for... we know your 24-hour job does not start and stop  
8 with us because you're getting other calls from other  
9 New Yorkers so I just want to first start by saying  
10 thank you.

11 Can you, I guess I wanted to know if you  
12 thought it would be helpful for the Council to amend  
13 reporting requirement language from "response to a  
14 federal authority request" to exchange of information  
15 regardless of who is initiated in the exchange as my  
16 group of lawyers? You don't necessarily... if you want  
17 to think about that some more, but I think that is an  
18 inquiry we want to receive your feedback on.

19 ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: I think that that could  
20 be helpful, but I think even more important than that  
21 is making it extremely clear that any type of  
22 information sharing starts and ends with the exchange  
23 of words, not the exchange of bodies.

24 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

2 I don't know if anyone else wants to add  
3 anything or?

4 DEBORAH LEE: Yeah, I'd be happy to submit  
5 a written... I'd like to, yeah, maybe confer.

6 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: No. Thank you.

7 And also I think another question should  
8 we require logs of every exchange between City  
9 enforcement entities, NYPD, DOC, DOP, and federal  
10 immigration authorities?

11 ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: Can you repeat the  
12 question?

13 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Logs. Should we ask  
14 them to maintain logs of every interaction?

15 ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: Yes, logs. Absolutely.

16 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: I know. It's like a  
17 trick easy question. Clearly, they can't  
18 differentiate in their testimony...

19 ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: Yes, they need to be  
20 accounting.

21 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: As you noted, which  
22 is obscene, truly obscene.

23 Could you tell us what information a  
24 criminal defense attorney receives to inform them

2 that a non-citizen client would be transferred to ICE  
3 custody?

4 CATHERINE GONZALEZ: As a former criminal  
5 defense attorney, generally we don't receive any  
6 information. I think historically in cases where we  
7 have seen our clients end up in immigration custody,  
8 there hasn't been any information to us prematurely.  
9 We're often looking for our clients when they are not  
10 brought to their court date or something like that.

11 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Right. And so DOC  
12 never provides any advance notice to defenders of  
13 when they're communicating to ICE. We know this but I  
14 just for the record it's important to note.

15 CATHERINE GONZALEZ: They do not.

16 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: I guess turn it over  
17 to Council Member Cabán.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. Before I  
19 ask my question, I just want to put it on the record  
20 that the Commissioner of MOIA is downstairs in the  
21 rotunda. I just went and asked him why he wasn't  
22 upstairs in this room and he said well, you know,  
23 it's up to the Mayor. You know, the leaders in this  
24 Administration have less a month left in their posts  
25 and they absolutely could come up here and do the

2 right thing and stand up for the people that they had  
3 committed to protect and serve. Infuriating.

4                   My question is for Ms. Brown. First, it's  
5 really nice to see you. Brittany and I were public  
6 defenders at New York County Defender Services during  
7 the first Trump Administration. I was a Staff  
8 Attorney. She was a Senior Immigration Attorney. And  
9 I just want to ask you what are sort of the  
10 differences that you were seeing from, if any, from  
11 the first time holistic public defense organizations  
12 have had to navigate a Trump agenda and this time  
13 around.

14                   BRITTANY BROWN: I think one of the most  
15 striking things is how I would say every client that  
16 I interact with expresses fear, expresses  
17 uncertainty, and frankly, it's hard for me to provide  
18 any comfort or certainty because of the way that this  
19 Administration is acting. The chaos and the lack of  
20 clarity on why they are targeting certain people. And  
21 so I would say that is the most striking thing. And  
22 as Catherine mentioned, you know, we have to often be  
23 looking for our clients. I would say that occupies  
24 more of my time this time around than last time  
25 just trying to track down where a client might be.

2 Maybe they're simply laying low because that's the  
3 smart thing to do or maybe they've been swept up and  
4 we just don't know. And it's nice to see you, too.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you. So in  
6 the 2023 hearing on the detainer laws, DOC testified  
7 that ICE had never presented the Department with a  
8 judicial warrant for clients of yours that had been  
9 transferred from DOC to ICE custody. To your  
10 knowledge, has there ever been a judicial warrant  
11 presented?

12 ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: Not for mine and it  
13 didn't sound like for yours as well, yeah.

14 DEBORAH LEE: No.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Okay. And then the  
16 current scope of 214 is limited to the NYPD,  
17 Department of Corrections, and Department of  
18 Probation. We've heard examples of ACS colluding with  
19 ICE. Could you all just describe, you know, is this  
20 limited scope good to start with? What would you like  
21 to see this bill address?

22 ROSA COHEN-CRUZ: I think certainly  
23 including ACS and, honestly, extending it to all City  
24 agencies would be really critical because as you've  
25 heard from everyone today, all the panels and I'm

2 sure you'll continue to hear, there is widespread  
3 fear of engaging with City agencies at every level  
4 because people are afraid that information will be  
5 shared with ICE and, you know, in the earlier panel  
6 of directed impacted speakers I can share that the  
7 reason that some directly impacted speakers were  
8 represented by attorneys or other speakers instead is  
9 because this is a government agency and there is fear  
10 of attending even something like this, so I think,  
11 you know, making it really clear that New York City's  
12 laws are not only widespread but that there will be  
13 accountability for all the prohibitions in place  
14 against information sharing with ICE is critically  
15 important.

16 TANIA MATTOS: I second that, and I want  
17 to highlight the urgency of this because every week  
18 our office has to analyze federal memos, executive  
19 orders, and every week it feels like our clients' and  
20 communities' rights are taken away, and so we're just  
21 playing catch-up at this moment and vital, vital that  
22 New York City takes a stand immediately.

23 DEBORAH LEE: I just completely concur. I  
24 think expanding it to all City agencies would be much  
25 appreciated and I think would just put a sort of

2 stake in the ground in terms of sort of where New  
3 York City stands.

4 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Great. I hope we will  
5 continue to put these stakes on the ground and  
6 fortify these laws and really demand accountability  
7 from the Administration in all the ways that we see  
8 skirting of laws. So, certainly I don't need to  
9 encourage it but because I know you not only will  
10 hold us accountable but continue to submit the real  
11 experiences of what is happening on the ground to  
12 make sure we close those loopholes and I think it's  
13 important to note data and electronic surveillance is  
14 probably one of the biggest challenges that we face  
15 that we need to really begin to look into and the  
16 tech companies that are colluding and ensuring that  
17 they evade laws.

18 So, I just want to thank the panel, and  
19 I'm going to call the next panel.

20 Next, we'll have Leslie Allen, Dave  
21 Basnet, Mahabuba Masud, Yasmine Farhang, Zachary  
22 Ahmad, and Arash Azizzada. So sorry if I mispronounce  
23 your names.

24 Oh, wow. I think we should just close  
25 this hearing to go down to the rotunda because we got

2 the Mayor, we got NYPD, we got MOIA, DCAS. They're  
3 all downstairs rather than being here accounting for  
4 how they are protecting immigrant New Yorkers.

5 Unbelievable.

6               Okay. I'm sorry to this panel whom we  
7 called up. We thank you for being here, and I guess  
8 would you like to start?

9               MUHAMMAD MUSAH: Good afternoon, Chair  
10 Avilés and Members of the Committee on Immigration.  
11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My  
12 name is Muhammad Musah. I am the Lead Community  
13 Organizer at African Communities Together at the New  
14 York City chapter. It's an organization founded by  
15 African immigrants for African immigrants, dedicated  
16 to ensuring that our communities and all New Yorkers  
17 can live with dignity, safety, and opportunity in the  
18 city. Since our founding in 2013, our mission has  
19 been clear, to empower African immigrants to  
20 integrate socially, engage civically, and advance  
21 economically. We do this by connecting community  
22 members to critical services, developing leaders  
23 across African immigrant communities, and organizing  
24 for policies that reflect our lived experiences and  
25 priorities. For more than 10 years, we have built a

2 grassroots membership that includes thousands of  
3 African immigrant members, facilitated the connection  
4 of thousands of families to critical services, legal,  
5 housing, workforce development, and language access  
6 support, and organized successful policy campaigns at  
7 the local, state, and federal level. In addition to  
8 New York City, we have offices in Washington D.C.,  
9 the metro area, and Philadelphia, and we participate  
10 in a national network of more than 100 organizations  
11 with a similar mission to support African immigrants  
12 that operate across 41 states. Every day, we work  
13 directly with newly arrived and long-standing African  
14 immigrant families who remind me of my mother who was  
15 afraid to leave the apartment during our first year  
16 here in 1994 in fear of the current realities of  
17 ICE's terror and deceit. We routinely support people  
18 who are afraid to go to school, file a police report,  
19 or seek medical care because they do not trust the  
20 City agencies will protect their information. We see  
21 employees and families intimidated by employers and  
22 landlords when immigration enforcement is too closely  
23 tied to City systems. For these reasons, we support  
24 Intro. 214, the New York City Trust Act. A private  
25 right of Action is essential to ensure that sanctuary

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2 laws are real and enforceable. Our community members  
3 need to know they can safely access City services  
4 without fear. We also support Intro. 1268 requiring  
5 clear signage about sanctuary rights, Intro. 1272,  
6 the PEMDAS Act, which prevents misuse of E-Verify and  
7 protects immigrant workers, and (TIMER CHIME) Intro.  
8 1412 which ensures federal immigration enforcement  
9 cannot operate out of DOC property. Collectively,  
10 these bills strengthen safety, restore trust, and  
11 help immigrant families, especially African  
12 immigrants to fully participate in city life. So,  
13 thank you for your leadership and for advancing  
14 policies that protect all New Yorkers and thanks for  
15 the opportunity.

16 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you, and just  
17 for the record, you're?

18 MUHAMMAD MUSAH: Yeah. It's Muhammad  
19 Musah.

20 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you. Can you  
21 tell me your name?

22 MAHABUBA MASUD: Yes. My name is Mahabuba  
23 Masud, representing New York Lawyers for the Public  
24 Interest.

25

2 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Okay. So, I think we  
3 may have confused your names.

4 MUHAMMAD MUSAH: Yeah. It sounded like you  
5 said my name.

6 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: All right. We just  
7 need for the record to have the panels done properly  
8 so we may check in with you again. Thank you.

9 Arash.

10 ARASH AZIZZADA: Good afternoon, and thank  
11 you for allowing me to testify on behalf of voiceless  
12 Afghan immigrants and refugees in New York City. My  
13 name is Arash Azizzada. I'm the Co-Director of  
14 Afghans for Better Tomorrow. Our organization came  
15 out of a crisis moment, one that occurred in the  
16 summer of 2021. Since then, over 200,000 Afghans have  
17 come to the United States and thousands of them have  
18 come to this great city. During the migrant crisis of  
19 2023, we started supporting hundreds of Afghans  
20 seeking asylum in the city, anticipating a potential  
21 Trump Administration and a crackdown on Afghans and  
22 other immigrants. What we've seen in the past two  
23 weeks is a scapegoating of the Afghan American  
24 refugee community. We've seen an Administration that  
25 is targeting, demonizing, vilifying, and targeting

2 Afghan refugees and immigrants who have newly  
3 arrived. Just down the street of Federal Plaza, ICE  
4 is targeting and detaining innocent and vulnerable  
5 Afghans. Between the press conference this morning  
6 and my testimony today, I received three more phone  
7 calls from our community members who've been called  
8 in for ICE check-ins and were anticipating either  
9 detention or continued surveillance by ICE and  
10 immigration enforcement. I will remind also that the  
11 conditions (INAUDIBLE) were co-created by American  
12 foreign policy and there's a great debt that is owed  
13 to Afghans, many of them served alongside U.S.  
14 service people. That is not to exceptionalize Afghan,  
15 but to say if this Administration in this country  
16 wants to get rid of Afghans, who does belong in this  
17 country. This policy of targeting Afghans is not just  
18 a betrayal of promises made to us, it's a policy  
19 rooted in Islamophobia and bigotry. This is an  
20 attempt to get rid of Black and Brown immigrants. We  
21 encourage the enforcement of existing sanctuary laws  
22 and passage of all four bills. With proper  
23 enforcement, the dignity of Afghans and other  
24 immigrants can be upheld and respected. Our community  
25 lives in deep fear, petrified of what will happen

2 when they go to their ICE check-ins, engage City  
3 agencies, come home to their migrant shelters in  
4 which they still live, or they asked me what if ICE  
5 comes to our home. New York City must not just pass  
6 these bills to protect our newest New Yorkers. It  
7 must show and present a framework to the rest of the  
8 country what it means to resist cooperation with the  
9 Gestapo-like officers who are breathing down our  
10 community's neck. This is the least Afghans and our  
11 other immigrant neighbors are owed when they are  
12 under attack. Thank you.

13 MAHABUBA MASUD: Thank you to the  
14 Committee of Immigration for holding this public  
15 hearing to address the urgent need to protect our  
16 immigrant communities in New York. My name is  
17 Mahabuba Masud. I'm speaking as part of the Health  
18 Justice Program at New York Lawyers for the Public  
19 Interest. I'm testifying today from a health justice  
20 lens to urge the Council to pass legislation that  
21 will uphold the existing laws to protect our non-  
22 citizen community members from ICE enforcement. These  
23 actions are critical to preserve access to health  
24 care for all New Yorkers. When immigrant New Yorkers  
25 lack confidence that City agencies and their

2 representatives won't communicate and collude with  
3 ICE, they hesitate to access health care. These fears  
4 are compounded when ICE shows up in local hospitals.  
5 Since January 2025, this fear has only increased. We  
6 currently work alongside medical providers who  
7 themselves observed that ICE presence in the  
8 community has led to increased fear of deportation,  
9 not only among undocumented immigrants, but also  
10 among their U.S. citizen children and network of  
11 families and friends. This fear is causing health  
12 care avoidance, stress, and anxiety, all of which  
13 have profound effects on the physical and the mental  
14 health of our community members. When a non-citizen  
15 New Yorker is arrested and detained by ICE, they lose  
16 access to the health care they received in their  
17 communities. At the same time, their children and  
18 other family members frequently experience worsening  
19 physical and psychological stress with the removal of  
20 their primary caretakers. Many New York City  
21 residents detained by ICE are currently held at  
22 Orange County Jail in Goshen, New York. We have been  
23 working with our medical provider network who review  
24 medical records of individuals detained by ICE to  
25 assess the adequacy of their health care and the

2 health risks that individuals face. We have  
3 documented years of medical persistent neglect at  
4 this facility including lack of care for chronic  
5 conditions, a lack of medication access, a lack of  
6 follow-up care and improper management of medical  
7 conditions. Many individuals enter detention with  
8 medical issues that require regular treatment, but  
9 ICE has constantly neglected its basic health needs.  
10 People report that medication that they were taking  
11 when they enter detention often for years to decades  
12 is discontinued or altered once they're detained.  
13 This intentional harm towards detained individuals  
14 can result in severe health consequences, including  
15 death. Tragically, worsening health outcomes  
16 including preventable deaths due to inadequate  
17 medical care are not exceptional occurrences. They're  
18 the standard practice in ICE detention centers. It is  
19 now more important than ever for the Council to act  
20 to rebuild the bridge of trust between immigrant  
21 communities and New York City to protect your  
22 communities and their health. We urge the Council to  
23 pass the New York City Trust Act and Intro. 1412 to  
24 safeguard New York immigrant community workers and  
25 preserve their access to health care. Thank you.



2 not protect them. We need our sanctuary laws to be  
3 given teeth, enforced with real mechanisms for  
4 accountability. That is why AVP strongly supports the  
5 NYC Trust Act. Too many of our clients have been  
6 harmed because the NYPD, DOC, or DOP ignored or  
7 misinterpreted our detainer laws. When that happens,  
8 a survivor loses far more than trust. They can lose  
9 their family, their housing, and their only source of  
10 safety. A private right of action is essential. It  
11 creates consequences for unlawful collusion with ICE  
12 and gives survivors a path to seek justice. We urge  
13 the passage of the Safer Sanctuary Act. ICE should  
14 never have an office in the DOC property. Allowing  
15 federal immigration enforcement to embed itself in  
16 City jails is a direct threat due to process to  
17 safety and to the Council's own decade-long promise  
18 to keep our system separate from federal deportation  
19 machinery. AVP also supports Intro. 1268 to ensure  
20 clear and accessible signage so New Yorkers  
21 understand their rights when approached by federal  
22 authorities. Survivors deserve to know what  
23 protections exist before they're in crisis. Finally,  
24 AVP supports Intro. 1272. We hear regularly from  
25 workers, especially trans and gender non-conforming

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2 workers, who are sidelined and intimidated by  
3 employers misusing E-Verify. Setting a lawful order  
4 of operations is a basic safeguard against  
5 discrimination. On behalf of AVP and the survivors we  
6 serve, I urge the Council to pass all four measures  
7 Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to  
8 testify today.

9 ZACHARY AHMAD: Good afternoon. My name is  
10 Zachary Ahmad. I'm a Senior Policy Counsel at the New  
11 York Civil Liberties Union or the NYCLU. I want to  
12 thank the Council, the Committee, and Chair Avilés  
13 for holding this hearing and giving consideration to  
14 the legislation on today's agenda, including the  
15 Safer Sanctuary Act and Intro. 1268, which we  
16 enthusiastically support and, of course, the New York  
17 City Trust Act which has been several years in the  
18 making and which we very much support. The Trust Act  
19 is all about accountability, and it's therefore  
20 especially glaring and disappointing that the  
21 outgoing Administration has refused to engage in even  
22 the most basic level of accountability by showing up  
23 today and answering the Committee's questions. And  
24 that's even more glaring in light of what we learned  
25 last week from the Department of Investigation about

2 how the NYPD has failed to follow our sanctuary laws  
3 in a number of different respects. As you know, last  
4 week the DOI released the findings of an  
5 investigation into the NYPD's compliance or lack  
6 thereof with various City sanctuary laws which was  
7 undertaken at the request of this current Council  
8 Speaker. And whatever the DOI might have said about  
9 the NYPD's diligence and follow-through on addressing  
10 the issues they found, the findings themselves are  
11 quite troubling. The DOI identified at least one  
12 instance of clear collusion that it believed was a  
13 violation out of the handful of examples that it that  
14 it looked at, but it also illustrated how the federal  
15 government is using various different agencies and  
16 law enforcement entities and the pretext of criminal  
17 investigations to entangle the NYPD into helping  
18 detain people for ICE under the premise that they are  
19 in fact needing assistance for criminal  
20 investigations. What's more, the report found  
21 something that many of us have long believed to be  
22 the case, which is that the NYPD is not accurately  
23 tracking or reporting on how often it receives and  
24 how it responds to requests for ICE assistance as  
25 it's required to by Local Law 228. And that is not

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2 merely a dry bureaucratic issue. The lack of adequate  
3 reporting really makes it impossible to know how much  
4 collusion might be happening beyond the few examples  
5 that might get flagged and raised up for review. This  
6 is something we've testified to before. As you know,  
7 advocates are regularly identifying instances on the  
8 ground in which they believe that it appears that the  
9 NYPD and ICE might be in collaboration and the  
10 documented failure to track and report on the  
11 requests for assistance really makes it hard to dig  
12 down and know exactly what's going on in those  
13 instances. All of this ties back directly to the  
14 legislation on today's agenda. First of course, we  
15 need the Trust Act so our City sanctuary laws have  
16 teeth and provide a real deterrent against non-  
17 compliance in the first place, and we also need the  
18 Safer Sanctuary Act, which in addition to keeping ICE  
19 off Rikers for good, would also broaden our  
20 definitions of immigration (TIMER CHIME) enforcement  
21 and immigration authorities under the law to better  
22 reflect how this Administration is weaponizing  
23 agencies beyond just ICE and CBP to aid immigration  
24 enforcement and is using criminal law enforcement as  
25 a proxy for civil immigration enforcement. We did

2 submit longer written testimony. I'll yield the rest  
3 of my time. Thank you, again.

4 DAVE BASNET: Good afternoon, Chair Avilés  
5 and Members of the Committee. and thank you for the  
6 opportunity to testify today on the key legislation  
7 that's on the agenda and the critical steps that this  
8 Body must take to strengthen our City's existing  
9 sanctuary laws and ensure that New York City is  
10 protected from ongoing federal overreach. My name is  
11 Dave Basnet, and I'm the Senior Manager of Immigrant  
12 Rights Policy at the New York Immigration Coalition.  
13 The NYIC is a statewide network of more than 200  
14 organizations that support immigrants and refugees  
15 across New York State. New York City has reliably  
16 been a national leader in upholding our municipal  
17 protections for immigrant communities. Through our  
18 long-standing sanctuary laws for decades, the laws  
19 have sought to protect our city's local resources and  
20 ensure that they are not wasted on collusion with  
21 federal immigration enforcement. In order to respond,  
22 however, to the Trump Administration and its cruel  
23 agenda of indiscriminate deportation and detention,  
24 our sanctuary laws need to be updated and  
25 strengthened so that they can be responsive to the

2 moment our city and our country is confronting, a  
3 moment where federal agents act with impunity, where  
4 rule of law and Constitutional protections are  
5 regularly and routinely undermined, and where  
6 immigrant families are being torn apart as a daily  
7 occurrence. Today, the NYIC alongside ICE Out! New  
8 York City's coalition is testifying to call for the  
9 swift passage of Intro. 1412, the Safer Sanctuary  
10 Act, and Intro. 214, the New York City Trust Act. My  
11 colleagues have spoken extensively on the New York  
12 City Trust Act so I'll focus a little bit on the  
13 Safer Sanctuary Act. The Safer Sanctuary Act comes at  
14 a time when New York State Supreme Court upheld what  
15 was accomplished by advocates and the Council more  
16 than a decade ago, unequivocally rejecting ICE  
17 presence at Rikers Island. Mayor Eric Adams' attempt  
18 at restoring ICE presence at Rikers Island with  
19 Executive Order 50 stood in complete violation of our  
20 City's sanctuary protections, and ultimately the  
21 action was invalidated by our courts and New Yorkers  
22 were once again protected from federal government's  
23 overreach in our city, even if City officials tried  
24 to circumvent our City laws by opening a backdoor to  
25 collusion. We call on the Council to pass the Safer

2 Sanctuary Act to permanently prevent ICE from  
3 maintaining any quarters on the Department of  
4 Corrections property. Intro. 1412 would remove the  
5 ambiguity that allowed Mayor Adams to act with  
6 impunity in the first place and would revise how  
7 immigration authorities are defined to reflect the  
8 broad ways in which federal entities are being  
9 weaponized to enforce immigration law. Drawing on the  
10 previous large-scale immigration raid and attempted  
11 raid at Canal Street in downtown Manhattan as an  
12 example, the federal agents present to conduct  
13 immigration enforcement included agents from ICE,  
14 HSI, FBI, ATS, CBP, and as well as the IRS and DEA  
15 (TIMER CHIME) and much more. The tactics and  
16 strategies of federal immigration enforcement are  
17 changing and more federal resources are being  
18 diverted to aid the Trump Administration's mass  
19 deportation plan. The Administration has also  
20 diverted critical resources typically used for  
21 national security and emergency and disaster response  
22 to facilitate the expansion of deportation agents. To  
23 ensure that sanctuary laws are evolving at the pace  
24 that the Trump Administration's tactics are, we need  
25 the Safer Sanctuary Act to expand the definitions

2 currently written into our laws to ensure that we're  
3 fully protecting New Yorkers. The Council must  
4 urgently pass the Safer Sanctuary Act and the New  
5 York City Trust Act to create a private right of  
6 action for New Yorkers that are harmed by the  
7 collusion. The recent DOI report which found NYPD  
8 violated our City sanctuary laws in at least one  
9 instance is indicative of the necessity for tangible  
10 accountability and justice for New Yorkers. In the  
11 face of thousands of new immigration agents, billions  
12 of dollars of federal funding, we need to pass laws  
13 that strengthen the existing protections and create  
14 accountability for our City sanctuary laws so that we  
15 protect our immigrant communities from the federal  
16 government's overreach and ensure safety and well-  
17 being of every New Yorker. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you so much to  
19 this panel. Thank you for noting. I think others who  
20 testified also noted the DOI investigation and the  
21 importance of lifting up not only the need for the  
22 data to be able to track and truly understand the  
23 scale and scope but also of all the other failures  
24 and weaknesses that the report outlined that we  
25 should all be demanding very swift response and

2 correction too because it is clearly noted in that  
3 report. So thank you to this panel, and I will call  
4 the next panel.

5 Oh, and I'd like to acknowledge we've  
6 been joined by Council Member Julie Won.

7 We'll try again. Yasmine, Tsering Lama,  
8 Wai Yin Wong or Joyce, Nat Moghe from Asian American  
9 Federation, Araceli (phonetic) from Mixteca, I'm not  
10 sure they're here, and Mamado Bali (phonetic) from  
11 ACT.

12 YASMINE FARHANG: Good afternoon now,  
13 everyone. My name is Yasmine Farhang, and I'm the  
14 Executive Director of the Immigrant Defense Project,  
15 which fights for justice for all immigrants,  
16 especially those targeted by the criminal and  
17 immigration legal systems. I will make my comments in  
18 just a moment, but I just want to make sure everybody  
19 who doesn't already know what's happening downstairs  
20 because it was alluded to. I got a little more  
21 detail. Our Mayor is downstairs together with NYPD  
22 Commissioner and Manny Castro, the Commissioner of  
23 the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. They're  
24 hosting a press conference, and you can't make this  
25 up, it's about language access for immigrant New

2 Yorkers so we collude with ICE, but we do it with  
3 language access. I think that is the theme of, and I  
4 really hope that anybody who is in the press group  
5 downstairs is asking them about their behavior. So,  
6 that's wild and exceptionally disappointing,  
7 especially for Manny I hate to say it, but I have to  
8 say it.

9 I'm not going to repeat what so many  
10 people have already said. You need only listen to  
11 everyone else to understand how completely  
12 fundamental sanctuary is to New York as a city  
13 always, and especially now, and, you know, as I said  
14 earlier all our call is really simple. We're asking  
15 our own City government in New York City not to act  
16 as secret agents for ICE, right. When we talk about  
17 institutions that are already disproportionately  
18 targeting Black New Yorkers and New Yorkers of color,  
19 we need to minimally know that they're also not  
20 acting as secret agents for ICE. We have sat here too  
21 many times. I was speaking to some of our partners  
22 and I was saying that I feel like this is *déjà vu*. I  
23 think I have probably sat every single one of these  
24 chairs before this Council and had, you know, know  
25 some testimony here that I'm able to copy and paste

2 and we have told you everything. I know our Council  
3 Members who are here who are with us who are  
4 championing these bills know this well. I don't know  
5 where everyone else is. Because I think it is notable  
6 to say that we are missing not just our  
7 Administration but some of our fellow Council Members  
8 as well, and I don't really know what else could be  
9 more important a year into the Trump Administration  
10 when the Council hasn't passed a piece of legislation  
11 that actively addresses ICE policing, but, you know,  
12 one thing I just want to stress for the record and  
13 make sure it's clear for the record and this has been  
14 alluded to is that, you know, violations, we have  
15 celebrated our laws, many of us fought for the laws  
16 that we passed a decade ago and we're proud of those  
17 laws, but those laws are only as powerful as they are  
18 consistently upheld and, you know, we unveiled  
19 thousands of pages of email correspondence between  
20 the Department of Corrections and ICE as alluded to  
21 before which didn't just show systematic kind of  
22 practices of violating our laws with slowdowns of  
23 release communication to facilitate transfer to ICE  
24 but also a deep culture of collusion, and I think  
25 it's really important we understand this culture

2 piece. It has been said many times but it bears  
3 saying again that one of the emails from DOC was  
4 signed off with a hashtag teamsendthemback, right,  
5 and so this idea that there's sort of like one bad  
6 apple or like they just need more training and we'll  
7 fix the protocols and then everything will be fine.  
8 Like, it is beyond that, right, and so what we need  
9 to see is a culture change, not just a change in  
10 systems, policies, and protocol To date, this  
11 Administration has done nothing to address this. last  
12 time I sat here, we talked about how many, many, many  
13 (TIMER CHIME) efforts to contact MOIA about this had  
14 gone without response. I think thanks to Council  
15 Member Avilés asking why about this last time, they  
16 sent us an email a week after the last hearing. We  
17 had a totally superficial meeting and never heard  
18 from them again. You know, so we are calling on this  
19 Committee today as many people before me have said to  
20 ensure City agencies who systematically violate our  
21 laws are held accountable, to ensure that laws from  
22 over a decade ago evicting ICE from City jails are  
23 not undermined by prohibiting any federal agency  
24 carrying out deportation agenda from setting up an  
25 office on DOC property. The time is now. I won't be

2 redundant I'll pass it to the other speakers on  
3 this panel. The time has passed. It's way past. It's  
4 time for us to pass these bills. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

6 TSERING D. LAMA: Good afternoon. My name  
7 is Tsering Lama, and I'm a Senior Manager of  
8 Organizing and Policy at Adhikaar. Adhikaar is the  
9 only women-led community center and a worker center  
10 that serves and organizes the Nepali-speaking  
11 community on workers' rights, immigration rights,  
12 youth empowerment, access to health care, and  
13 language justice. I'm here today testifying along our  
14 RISE network, a network of 20 Asian-led and Asian-  
15 serving organizations that provide immigration case  
16 management and legal services to support New Yorkers.  
17 As new immigrants, many of our members are temporary  
18 protective status holders of mixed family statuses or  
19 undocumented individuals who are forced to navigate a  
20 terrorizing and opaque immigration system that puts  
21 them at risk of deportation and detention. Our work  
22 in advancing immigration justice responds directly to  
23 these challenges. The central facet of this work  
24 involves provision of culturally competent case  
25 support to our at-risk members and particularly in

2 the intersection of immigration and workers' rights.

3 Many of our members depended on TPS for their work

4 authorization, their health care insurance, their

5 business licenses, their travel documents, and TPS

6 for Nepali nationals were terminated this year in

7 August 5 by the Trump Administration leaving

8 thousands in precarious situations. Day to day, our

9 community is living in fear as a community continue

10 to be kidnapped. The current presidential

11 administration has brought drastic policy changes at

12 the federal, state, and local levels, and New York

13 City's sanctuary laws restrict cooperation with civil

14 enforcement. Yet, these events indicate these

15 protections are often overlooked. With the threat of

16 militarized violence in our city and the lack of

17 protection and training from New York City NYPD

18 officers, immigrant New Yorkers' rights to continue

19 to be violated and individuals with lawful

20 immigration status continue to be detained without

21 due process. We are grateful for the FY26 City

22 Council funding that was provided to the RISE network

23 partners and our New York City Coalition of Domestic

24 Work that is going to support the in-language and

25 culturally competent immigration legal services and

2 management, but I think here, we're all here like to  
3 support the four measures right now, which is the  
4 Intro. 1214, which will ensure that immigrants have  
5 voiced in safeguarding their dignity and well-being,  
6 Intro. 1272 to ensure that candidates are evaluated  
7 based on their qualification and skills rather than  
8 their immigration statuses. We also support the 1268  
9 in creating signage describing certain constitutional  
10 and legal protections. Intro. 1412 which would bar  
11 federal immigration authorities from (TIMER CHIME)  
12 maintaining offices on land over which NYC Department  
13 of Correction Offices exercise jurisdiction. We also  
14 hope that the Council continues to protect and expand  
15 funding for legal services so that our communities  
16 can continue to be protected in the city.

17 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

18 NAT MOGHE: Thank You, Chair Alexa Avilés  
19 and Member of the Committee on Immigration, for  
20 holding this hearing and for providing us with the  
21 opportunity to testify. My name is Nat Moghe. I'm the  
22 Advocacy Coordinator at the Asian American Federation  
23 where we proudly represent the collective voice of  
24 more than 70 member non-profits serving 1.5 million  
25 Asian New Yorkers. I'm honored to testify as a South

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2	Asian queer and trans son of immigrants alongside our	
3	partners at the Rapid Immigration Support and	
4	Empowerment Network. The current presidential	
5	administration has brought drastic policy changes at	
6	the federal, state, and local levels. New York City's	
7	sanctuary laws restrict cooperation with civil	
8	immigration enforcement. Yet recent events indicate	
9	that these protections are often overlooked. In	
10	September, a New York City corrections officer	
11	provided federal immigration officers with real-time	
12	information about the release of a man from Rikers	
13	Island, violating the City's sanctuary law which	
14	resulted in his arrest by ICE. In late October of	
15	this year, ICE conducted a militarized raid on Canal	
16	Street in Chinatown, arresting nine immigrant vendors	
17	and five protesters, and on November 29th, the NYPD	
18	helped ICE agents push citizens out of the way while	
19	arresting more than a dozen protesters. In August	
20	2025, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus	
21	highlighted cases of AAPI lawful permanent residents	
22	being detained without due process, raising concerns	
23	about violations of constitutional rights and	
24	sanctuary laws. With the threat of militarized	
25	violence in our city and lack of protection and	

2 training from NYPD officers, immigrant New Yorkers'  
3 rights continue to be violated and individuals with  
4 the lawful immigration status continue to be detained  
5 without due process. We must prevent local and state  
6 law enforcement and agencies from diverting resources  
7 to the federal deportation agenda and sharing  
8 sensitive information with federal immigration  
9 authorities. Alongside this, our City must continue  
10 to invest in new CBO's that are on the ground  
11 protecting and providing services to those who are  
12 targeted and wrongfully detained. We thank the  
13 Committee on Immigration for its continued support  
14 and leadership and protecting immigrant New Yorkers.  
15 We make the following recommendations to the City  
16 Council to sustain and improve and support our work.  
17 We support Intro. 214, which will help ensure  
18 immigrants have a voice in safeguarding their dignity  
19 and well-being as well as Intro. 1272, Intro. 1268,  
20 and Intro. 1412, which our recommendations can be  
21 found more in our written testimony. We'd also love  
22 for you to protect and expand funding for the  
23 following initiatives, legal services for AAPI  
24 communities, legal services for day laborers and  
25 domestic workers, and immigration legal services for

2 survivors of violence and gender-based (TIMER CHIME)  
3 harmed. Also to expand investment in language  
4 accessible legal services which it's very funny to  
5 hear that they're talking about that downstairs yet  
6 they are not here in this room right now to hear us  
7 speaking about that. Continue to support AAF's  
8 coordination of the immigration rapid response  
9 network, prioritize supporting small and mid-sized  
10 CBO's serving emerging immigrant communities, and to  
11 prioritize addressing contracting issues that pose  
12 barriers for CBO's to promptly receive funding to  
13 deliver crucial services. Thank you so much for  
14 allowing us to testify, and we look forward to  
15 working with you to make sure our immigrant  
16 communities get the support that they deserve. If you  
17 have any questions, I could be contacted at  
18 [nat.moghe@aafederation.org](mailto:nat.moghe@aafederation.org).

19 JOYCE WANG: Good afternoon, Council  
20 Members. Thank you, Chair Avilés and Members of the  
21 New York City Council Committee on Immigration for  
22 holding this important hearing and for giving us the  
23 opportunity to testify. My name is Joyce Wang, and  
24 I'm the Program Coordinator on behalf of KCS, Korean  
25 Community Services of Metropolitan, New York. We're

2 at Bayside, and since 1973, KCS has been a trusted  
3 community-based organization serving immigrant New  
4 Yorkers, particularly Korean Americans as well as  
5 other Asian Americans and AAPI residents. We offer  
6 programs in health services, social services,  
7 workforce development, and legal assistance. Every  
8 day, we work with people who are trying to navigate  
9 City systems for the first time, whether it be  
10 registering for health benefits, seeking employment  
11 opportunities, assistance with legal applications, or  
12 simply just stopping by a resource center because  
13 they don't know where else to go to obtain  
14 information on the City's offerings and their rights.  
15 Many of them come to us with questions, worries, or  
16 simply confusion about how things work and especially  
17 about what their rights are when interacting with  
18 government offices. In 2022, we expanded our work by  
19 launching our Immigration and Legal Services  
20 Department, which now offers a full range of support  
21 from preparing immigration forms to providing  
22 comprehensive legal services in family matters,  
23 employment housing, bankruptcy, wills and trusts, and  
24 also criminal defense. This past year alone, we  
25 supported about 200 in-person cases and handled over

2 800 phone consultations and hosted more than 10  
3 community legal education events including know-your-  
4 right sessions and immigration workshops. Across  
5 Korean, Chinese, and other AAPI communities, we  
6 continue to see how fear, misinformation, and  
7 language barriers shape people's daily interactions  
8 with public systems. Many of our clients are not sure  
9 which areas of a City building they're allowed to  
10 enter and others hesitate to visit government or  
11 school offices because they're worried about  
12 encountering unknown procedures or potential law  
13 enforcement, even when they have every right to do  
14 so. For example, we often meet Korean seniors at our  
15 center who avoid and feel intimidated visiting City  
16 agencies because signage is not available in their  
17 language. Additionally, we also hear from Chinese-  
18 speaking clients I feel hesitant about visiting a  
19 Social Security center because there's no signs in  
20 their language to direct them to the right area or to  
21 even make an appointment before visiting. These small  
22 moments may seem minor from the outside, but for many  
23 of our community members, this affects whether they  
24 feel safe accessing services that they're entitled  
25 to. These experiences highlight why accurate,

2 visible, and multilingual information about legal and  
3 constitutional rights is so crucial. This includes it  
4 being online, at City offices, in public schools, and  
5 any facility where immigrant New Yorkers go for help.  
6 The proposed legislations focus on developing clear  
7 signage that explains legal protections,  
8 distinguishes public from private only areas in City  
9 buildings, and is available in designated citywide  
10 and temporary language languages, aligns with what we  
11 see in our work. Plain, simple, and age-appropriate  
12 signage that is posted consistently and visibly  
13 (TIMER CHIME) has potential to reduce confusion for  
14 people walking to City buildings for services,  
15 ensuring immigrant residents know their rights, and  
16 strengthens trust in public spaces by reducing fear  
17 and misinformation. Therefore, KCS respectfully  
18 requests the City Council ensure that signage is  
19 accurate, visible, and multilingual including Korean,  
20 Chinese, and other languages spoken by AAPI  
21 communities in locations where immigrant residents  
22 already seek help, including schools, resource  
23 centers, libraries, and IDNYC enrollment sites.  
24 Promote stronger collaboration between City agencies  
25 and trusted community organizations to ensure

2 translations, wording, and design are culturally  
3 appropriate for groups such as Korean and Chinese  
4 speakers. Promote clear and consistent communication  
5 between agencies and community partners so that  
6 immigrant New Yorkers receive timely and reliable  
7 information about the rights and services available  
8 to them. And also reinforce that immigrant  
9 communities can safely access City services without  
10 fear, especially in public areas like schools,  
11 libraries, City agencies, and non-profit  
12 organizations. Clear signage will support this goal  
13 by providing clearance and reassurance to its  
14 residents. KCS remains fully committed to serving our  
15 immigrant New Yorkers with dignity and care. We are  
16 ready to work closely with the City to make sure our  
17 communities can access information, services, and  
18 public spaces with confidence and clarity. We thank  
19 the Committee for its continued leadership and for  
20 the opportunity to testify today. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you so much.

22 For this panel, as part of this panel, we  
23 had called Araceli Momolejo (phonetic), I just want  
24 to make sure before we move on and Mamado Bali from  
25 ACT.

2                   Okay. So, thank you again for your  
3 testimony and your consistent work on these issues.  
4 We deeply appreciate it. Thank you.

5                   Next, we have Manuel Castro who's here in  
6 his personal capacity. You have three minutes.

7                   MANUEL CASTRO: Good afternoon, Chair and  
8 Members of the Immigration Committee of the City  
9 Council. Thank you for allowing me to testify today  
10 on my personal capacity.

11                  As you know, it is up to City Hall on who  
12 is to testify on their behalf at this hearing. This  
13 is why I choose to testify it on my personal capacity  
14 as a longtime immigrant rights advocate, as someone  
15 who came to this country as a 5-year-old, grew up  
16 undocumented in this city, and I grew up with many of  
17 the same fears and concerns that our community  
18 members now are experiencing. Also, as someone who  
19 will continue to live and advocate here in New York  
20 City beyond my time in City government, I am here to  
21 strongly, strongly support Intro. 1268, Intro. 1272,  
22 Intro. 1412, and Intro. 214, and urge the City  
23 Council to take these bills into consideration and  
24 enact them into laws. Intro. 1268 aligns with my  
25 commitment to create plain language resources that

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2 clearly and explicitly outline immigrants' rights,

3 including the legal protections in Sections 4-210,

4 10-178, and 231202. Intro. 1272 is another piece of

5 legislation that will support immigrant New Yorkers.

6 This law is about the use of E-Verify system stating

7 that an agency is not allowed to use E-Verify at all

8 unless the job is based on federal funds or required

9 to do so by federal law. Intro. 1412 would prohibit

10 immigration authorities from maintaining offices or

11 quarters for any purpose on land under the

12 jurisdiction of Department of Corrections, and Intro.

13 1214 provides immigrant New Yorkers harmed by

14 violations of detainer laws an avenue to seek justice

15 through a private right to action. It is important

16 for me to be on the record in support of all these

17 bills and in support of all of you in making sure

18 that this City Council finally passes these laws that

19 I long championed and that I now currently support as

20 a New Yorker and as an immigrant concerned with my

21 community. In the coming years, federal immigration

22 enforcement may triple or quadruple in its size, and

23 we don't know the harms that that will bring to the

24 City of New York and to immigrant New Yorkers. Thank

25 you for the opportunity to testify.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: May I?

3 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Yes, please.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you.

5 Obviously, I came downstairs to ask you to come up  
6 and testify in your personal capacity. This is  
7 incredibly, incredibly, incredibly important. We're  
8 up here doing our jobs. It is a disgusting shame that  
9 the Mayor is not doing his. And I am glad that you  
10 are at least here right now testifying in your  
11 personal capacity in support of these bills. Thank  
12 you.

13 MANUEL CASTRO: Thank you, Council Member.

14 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: I do also echo and  
15 recognize that you are here in your personal  
16 capacity, but I have to say you have chosen to work  
17 with an Administration who has thrown our communities  
18 under the bus over and over and over again, and it  
19 took courage for you to come up here because we've  
20 been talking about you, 100 percent, and this Mayor  
21 who we both know has allowed our communities to sit  
22 with inadequate services with inadequate funding and  
23 with an office of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant  
24 Affairs who is muzzled and is not going full tilt to  
25 protect our communities and work in collaboration

2 with this Council. This office has been an utter  
3 disappointment during this very difficult time and  
4 so, once again, I thank you for standing up. I don't  
5 know how you reconcile watching your boss attack your  
6 community and still do the job. I don't know how you  
7 do that. I want to thank you for being here  
8 personally, but it does not... I am still highly  
9 offended by this behavior and I think every New  
10 Yorker is going to be offended and will remember what  
11 this office was like during this time. Thank you.

12 Next, we're going to call the panel.

13 Next, we're going to have Steve Auerbach, Samantha,  
14 Samantha from Common Cause, Mohammad Razvi, Reverend  
15 Chloe Breyer, Alejandro Grajales, and Choukri Khadija  
16 from the Council of People's Organizations.

17 ALEJANDRO GRAJALES: Good afternoon, Alexa  
18 Avilés and Member of the City Council Committee on  
19 Immigration. My name is Alejandro Grajales, and I am  
20 a Workers Rights Organizer and Caseworker at Workers  
21 Justice Project. We represent thousands of immigrant  
22 workers across New York City, including over 80,000  
23 app-based delivery workers who keep this city moving  
24 every day. Right now, immigrant communities are  
25 facing serious attacks. ICE is doing violence raids

2 in many neighborhoods, taking workers while they are  
3 simply doing their jobs, street vendors, delivery  
4 workers, nannies, construction workers, and more.  
5 These actions create fear, break trust, and put  
6 entire families and community at risk. Immigrant  
7 workers are the heart of New York City. When workers  
8 are scared to go to work because they might be  
9 targeted by ICE, the whole city suffers. An attack on  
10 immigrant workers is an attack on every New Yorker.  
11 This is why we need stronger protections. We urge the  
12 City Council to pass Intro. 214, 1268, 1272, and  
13 1412. These bills will help make immigrant  
14 communities safer from federal raids, make sure  
15 people know their rights, and hold City agencies  
16 accountable if those rights are violated. We also ask  
17 you to pass Intro. 1332, which protects app-delivery  
18 workers from unfair deactivations. No workers should  
19 have to choose between staying safe during an ICE  
20 raid and keeping their job. New York has always been  
21 an immigrant city. Without immigrant workers, there  
22 is no New York City. Workers Justice Project thank  
23 you for your support. We strongly encourage you to  
24 pass these protections so our communities and our  
25 city can stay safe and strong. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

3 REVEREND CHLOE BREYER: Many thanks to  
4 you, Chair Avilés and for the whole City Council  
5 Committee here. My name is the Reverend Chloe Breyer.  
6 I'm Executive Director at the Interfaith Center of  
7 New York and Episcopal priest and just here today on  
8 behalf of the Interfaith Center and also the  
9 Episcopal Diocese of New York whom I serve as clergy  
10 at Saint Edward the Martyr in East Harlem. So since  
11 we saw a whole new wave of asylum seekers coming  
12 (TIMER CHIME) I think that's for yours not mine.  
13 Okay, good. We have joined so many other and sought  
14 to resource through 30 regrants to faith and  
15 community partners welcoming new New Yorkers. Much of  
16 that was thanks to City Council for those resources,  
17 which we greatly appreciate. The Episcopal Diocese of  
18 New York joins us in thanking the Council for helping  
19 to meet this moment. So, since President Trump came  
20 into office in January, the resources that our  
21 grassroots coalition spent on welcoming new New  
22 Yorkers in 2023 and '24 is now being spent on  
23 stopping the same families and friends from being  
24 deported. Many gains and hard-earned stability have  
25 been upended as we know. Monthly Meals put on by East

2 End Temple Middle Collegiate Church, for example.  
3 Families have had to shift their resources to making  
4 sure that their children get to school safely. A  
5 parish in the Episcopal Diocese works with public  
6 school teachers who are paying out of their own  
7 pockets for private transport to and from school for  
8 students who are otherwise too terrified to attend.  
9 We know that asylum support clinics like El Barrio  
10 Angels have processed so many asylum applications are  
11 now overrun with requests for habeas petitions and  
12 bond funding. Also, commissary requests that New  
13 Yorkers who are languishing in private detention  
14 centers around this country so they can communicate  
15 with their families and lawyers. As ICE agents  
16 separate our families, tearing parents from children  
17 outside of courtrooms, mocking justice in the  
18 hallways and sidewalks of buildings where this sacred  
19 activity is supposed to be happening, we are in the  
20 moment where our sanctuary status as a city is being  
21 tested as it had never has before. Clergy provide  
22 pastoral comfort and accompaniment to people too  
23 frightened to attend court because the intimidating  
24 presence of ICE agents who seemingly sees people  
25 without rhyme or reason. With almost daily assaults

2 on our neighborhoods across the five boroughs, New  
3 Yorkers must have the confidence that the NYPD and  
4 City agencies will continue to protect their rights  
5 and not assist those who are violating them. All of  
6 the laws presented today need to be passed and we are  
7 discussing ways to protect basic freedoms and the  
8 rights of individuals who are currently being  
9 targeted by federal authorities. So for all these  
10 reasons, I want to thank the Committee for putting  
11 these (TIMER CHIME) forward and to know that the  
12 Interfaith Center and the Episcopal Diocese of New  
13 York strongly support their passage. Thank you.

14 MOHAMMAD RAZVI: Good afternoon. Thank  
15 you, Chair Avilés and Council Member Tiffany and the  
16 Committee of on Immigration for holding this hearing.  
17 My name is Mohammad Razvi. I am the Executive  
18 Director and Founder of Council of People's  
19 Organization. It was founded after 9/11 after all the  
20 atrocities that were happening within the Muslim  
21 community where federal authorities at that moment  
22 were just grabbing everyone. At that time, it wasn't  
23 ICE. It was called INS. I have my testimony here  
24 supporting ditto everything what everyone is saying  
25 because it is so much needed. At that moment, I

2 remember after 9/11 many folks were afraid to contact  
3 NYPD or hospitals and working with the administration  
4 at that time, they came up with the executive order  
5 41 with Bloomberg's Administration and other City  
6 Council Members, which was passed which was great,  
7 but this is even better because this protects  
8 everyone even more of what's happening today. Sadly,  
9 I wanted to share what's happening in our community.  
10 We actually implemented our family emergency program.  
11 What is that? That is in case a individual who drops  
12 off his child to school and goes to work and in that  
13 time, if that individual is picked up in a raid, we  
14 literally are showing folks how to give their  
15 guardianship to their friends and other family  
16 members so at least the child or the kids are not put  
17 into other places, to ACS, because last time we spoke  
18 I was telling you I was having conversation with the  
19 Chancellor and it was six, it was nine months now  
20 that I did not get a response and because there was a  
21 blue card, the blue card is the card that you have to  
22 file with the school to allow your child to be picked  
23 up. But you know, my mother said always come, you  
24 know, do what you got to do best. So now we have the  
25 QR code that we implemented and I want to make sure

2 that all the local community members they do this for  
3 those folks because they need this help. It's one  
4 thing to be detained, one thing is to be visited at  
5 your workplace, but it's another thing when you find  
6 out that your child, there's nobody there to pick  
7 them up. The protocol is to call the cops then goes  
8 to ACS and goes to foster care. That's the system  
9 sadly. We have been doing immigration rights and we  
10 actually developed a go-bag. This is the go-bag. The  
11 go-bag shows what information that you should have  
12 copies of your documents and we have been giving this  
13 to our food pantry line and others. We're explaining  
14 to them, this is what you put in the go-bag, this is  
15 what your rights are in case you get stopped, what  
16 are your responsibilities, what does the arrest  
17 warrant look like from judicial, what does the  
18 administrative warrant look like, copies of it  
19 because we need to inform our (TIMER CHIME)  
20 communities and protect them and we're here to work  
21 on this and work with you. Thank you

22 SAMANTHA SANCHEZ: Okay. Good afternoon,  
23 Chair Avilés and Members of the Committee. My name is  
24 Samantha Sanchez, and I'm here on behalf of Common  
25 Cause New York, a non-partisan good government

2 organization dedicated to transparency,  
3 accountability, and protecting democratic rights. New  
4 York City sanctuary laws are not just immigration  
5 policies. They are democracy protections. They ensure  
6 that federal agencies cannot bypass local rules,  
7 exploit confusion, or instill fear in communities who  
8 rely on public institutions every day. When people do  
9 not know their rights, fear replaces trust. No  
10 democracy can function on fear. That is why Intro.  
11 1268 is so essential. It strengthens New York City  
12 sovereignty by making rights visible, clear, and  
13 enforceable in public space. Requiring multilingual  
14 signage that explains constitutional protections, the  
15 limits of federal immigration authority, and the  
16 boundaries of non-public areas ensures that New  
17 Yorkers, especially immigrant New Yorkers, understand  
18 exactly where local control begins and federal power  
19 ends. This bill aligns New York City with national  
20 best practices. For example, Chicago strengthened its  
21 welcoming city ordinance to restrict ICE access to  
22 City facilities without a judicial warrant,  
23 established mandatory staff protocols, and ensured  
24 public visibility of rights information. New York  
25 City must adopt equally strong measures to protect

2 our residents and reinforce our commitment to  
3 democratic governance. Intro. 1268 also works in  
4 concert with the rest of the sanctuary package, all  
5 of which we support. Together, these four bills  
6 strengthen transparency, accountability, worker  
7 protections, and local authority, the cornerstones of  
8 a functioning democracy. Intro. 1268 is at the heart  
9 of its effort. It ensures every New Yorker walking  
10 into a school, a shelter, or any City-owned building  
11 has access to information about their rights and  
12 ensures that City staff have clarity, not confusion,  
13 when federal agents seek access to local spaces. Our  
14 written testimony contains specific recommendations  
15 for suggested amendments to make the bill even  
16 stronger, requiring signage to clearly delineate  
17 public from private spaces in City-owned buildings  
18 and requiring training by DCAS for security personnel  
19 and protecting City property from federal incursions  
20 We urge the Council to pass Intro. 1268 and the full  
21 sanctuary package to defend New York City's  
22 democratic institutions, uphold our sanctuary  
23 commitments, and ensure that all New Yorkers can  
24 safely interact with their government. Thank you for  
25 the opportunity to testify.

2 DR. STEVE AUERBACH: Hi. My name is Dr.  
3 Steve Auerbach. I am a retired pediatrician and  
4 career U.S. Public Health Service Officer medical  
5 epidemiologist. I am here speaking for the New York  
6 Doctors Coalition, which is in process of changing  
7 our name to Health Justice for New York. Since our  
8 founding in 2017, we've evolved to be an informal  
9 collective of all health care workers to provide  
10 health professional support behind the scenes as well  
11 as a public-facing white coat and scrubs presence for  
12 other progressive social, economic, racial, labor,  
13 worker, housing, carceral, and immigrant justice  
14 organizations and campaigns. Now before I get into  
15 the specifics of today's agenda, I want to highlight  
16 some of the truths about immigrants and refugees in  
17 America. They, or should I say we, are a vital and  
18 irreplaceable part of American history and our social  
19 and moral fabric and our economy. We all know who's  
20 building our buildings and picking our crops and  
21 delivering our food. Less recognized is that  
22 immigrants and refugees are a necessary and needed  
23 component of health workers in America. Many of our  
24 doctors, nurses, hospital aides, home care attendants  
25 are immigrants and not only are our patients, who are

2 also your friends and our neighbors, being made  
3 afraid to come to see the doctor when they are sick  
4 for fear of being snatched off the streets by  
5 anonymous thugs in masks, but they are health care  
6 workers that are afraid to go to work to their jobs.  
7 In addition and contrary to the lies being spewed for  
8 years, refugees and immigrants including undocumented  
9 pay far more into the economy and taxes than they use  
10 and it is a simple non-partisan fact per numerous  
11 reports including the Congressional Budget Office and  
12 other independent economists that they are net  
13 contributors to Medicare and Social Security. So,  
14 when that old MAGA guy is spewing dishonest hate  
15 against immigrants, in fact their Medicare and their  
16 Social Security are being paid for by our currently  
17 working immigrant brethren.

18 Now, with regard to the sanctuary package  
19 of bills, and I want to thank the Committee for  
20 bringing these forward and for allowing me to speak,  
21 we demand that ICE stay out of all health care  
22 facilities. All our patients deserve the privacy and  
23 safety with their care and, when ICE or other such  
24 agents are present in health care facilities, it  
25 interferes with the privacy and safety and care for

2 all of our patients and our staff. Now, this must  
3 also mean stronger written and publicized and  
4 enforcement of policies by health care facilities for  
5 ICE to stay out, particularly any non-public areas  
6 Forgive me. It includes New York City Health and  
7 Hospitals and Department of Mental Health and Hygiene  
8 And that ICE and related entities should not enter  
9 any of those public spaces nor of any of the private  
10 voluntary hospitals or clinics in the city nor should  
11 they be allowed to have access to health, medical,  
12 billing, or insurance records despite at the federal  
13 level DHS demanding that CMS share records. So, we  
14 hope that the passage of this package of bills will  
15 be a first step to also protecting health care  
16 workers, health care spaces, and all our patients  
17 from the depredations of ICE and related authorities.  
18 And we would ask that the Committee as it moves  
19 forward bring into as additional partners, but also  
20 frankly additional folks to have demands made upon  
21 Health and Hospitals, Department of Mental Health and  
22 Hygiene, and the private voluntary hospitals as  
23 represented by the Greater New York Hospital  
24 Association and the professional medical academies  
25 including my own New York State AAP which I can, off

2 the record as it were, say generally supports these  
3 measures but not all of our medical professional  
4 brethren nor the executives who run the hospitals are  
5 necessarily on board and there must be a bringing  
6 them to the table as well, and I thank you for your  
7 time.

8 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you. Thank you  
9 so much, Steve. Thank you for standing with us in the  
10 call for justice and representing the white coats as  
11 you call them, but certainly all of these bills and  
12 all of this work is, and what we have been advocating  
13 for is fundamentally a different public health  
14 approach and the impacts here are quite significant  
15 so certainly appreciate your testimony and continued  
16 advocacy and certainly call for the health  
17 institutions, in particular, to have a focus on how  
18 they too can be part of protecting immigrant New  
19 Yorkers which ultimately protects all New Yorkers  
20 because when one of us is safe, we're safe as well,  
21 so thank you.

22 Before this panel dismisses, we had  
23 Choukri Khadija. She's gone. Okay.

2                   Thank you so much. Thank you for all your  
3 work and highlighting certainly the efforts that you  
4 are making in community. Thank you.

5 Next, we'll have Karen Adelman, Alejandra  
6 Melgar Chay from The Door, Shraddha Joshi from The  
7 Door, David Moss, Durga Sreenivasan from Livable  
8 Futures, and Hadia Ali. Again, my apologies if I  
9 mispronounce your name. Hadia Ali, Durga, David Moss,  
10 Shraddha, Alejandra, and Karen.

KAREN ADELMAN: Hi. Good afternoon. Thank you, Chair Avilés and honorable Council Members. I'm here to present the testimony of the Corrections and Community Re-Entry Committee of the New York City Bar Association. My name is Karen Adelman, and I am Co-Chair of the City Bar's Corrections and Community Re-Entry Committee. Our Committee has been deeply focused on the crisis at Rikers Island. We sponsored a CLE on the state of the Nuñez matter and submitted an amicus brief regarding the remediation manager. Rikers Island remains a human rights catastrophe, and closing the jail on time in accordance with the law should be a top priority of this Council and the incoming Administration over the next two years. This is why the City Bar supports Intro. 1412. Intro.

2 1412, of course, will not solve the problems on  
3 Rikers Island, but it will stop one specific problem  
4 from getting worse. As everyone here knows and as we  
5 have heard much testimony about since the new federal  
6 administration took power, it has vastly expanded  
7 immigration enforcement not only through so-called  
8 the warrantless street stops we have seen on the news  
9 but also by expanding the use of so-called mandatory  
10 detention in immigration facilities that are just as  
11 crowded and unsafe as the jails. A key component of  
12 the federal government's agenda is, in fact, to use  
13 local law enforcement and local jails as force  
14 multipliers of its manpower. Prohibiting ICE from  
15 maintaining an office on Rikers Island will slow the  
16 federal government's inhumane mass deportation  
17 efforts. The Department of Correction has an  
18 unfortunate history of cooperation with ICE as noted  
19 by the Chair and some other testifying, and this has  
20 already impacted your constituents as just last year  
21 the City agreed to a 92.5-million-dollar settlement  
22 for the individuals held by DOC unlawfully on ICE  
23 detainees. The City Bar also supports updating the  
24 definition of immigration officer to close any  
25 loopholes that the administration may try to use to

2 station officers in jails, and we appreciate that the  
3 law would supersede any mayoral executive order. And  
4 we applaud the Council's successful litigation  
5 earlier this year against Mayor Adams' unlawful  
6 order. The individuals held at Rikers are already  
7 facing serious danger. They do not need to live in  
8 further fear that on-site immigration officers will  
9 separate them from their communities once they are  
10 released. The City Bar supports the necessary  
11 protections Intro. 1412 will provide. Thank you.

12 ALEJANDRA MELGAR CHAY: Good afternoon,  
13 everyone. My name is Alejandra Melgar Chay, and I'm a  
14 paralegal at The Door's Legal Services Center working  
15 with our detained minors project. The Door is a  
16 comprehensive youth development organization in New  
17 York City that provides services such as health care,  
18 supportive housing, food, and career development. At  
19 the legal services center, we work with many young  
20 people who entered the United States as unaccompanied  
21 children are placed in the custody of the Office of  
22 Refugee Resettlement, or ORR for short. We support  
23 both detained and released youth in their  
24 immigration, civil, and criminal proceedings. Over  
25 the past several months, we have witnessed a

2 troubling rise in young people we work with being  
3 targeted because of their immigration status or lack  
4 thereof. ICE has increasingly relied on so-called  
5 wellness checks to interrogate released unaccompanied  
6 children and their sponsors, resulting in arrests,  
7 invasive home inspections, and a sharp increase in  
8 re-detentions. We have also observed a rise in  
9 courthouse arrests and arrests occurring immediately  
10 after clients attend their scheduled ICE check-ins.  
11 Several Door clients have been detained by ICE while  
12 fully complying with court requirements or ICE  
13 appointments with some subsequently released while  
14 others remain detained in facilities across the  
15 country. Furthermore, ORR's new 2025 policies now  
16 mandate DNA testing and identity documentation that  
17 many undocumented individuals are unable to provide,  
18 significantly increasing their risk of interaction  
19 with ICE. These policy shifts have made it far more  
20 difficult for such sponsors to come forward, driving  
21 the average detention period from 35 days to 171  
22 days. I'm currently working with a detained minor  
23 whose father lives here in New York State yet the  
24 child has remained in custody for 160 days. As fear  
25 of detention grows, children who would have been

2 released to parents or close relatives are  
3 increasingly left without eligible sponsors and  
4 reclassified into distant relative or no sponsor  
5 categories contributing to the rapidly escalating  
6 length of stay in ORR custody. For clients applying  
7 for special immigrant juvenile status, SIJ, an adult  
8 who might otherwise serve as legal guardians for  
9 youth have increasingly become afraid to participate  
10 in the required family court process. Although a  
11 guardian's immigration status does not affect their  
12 eligibility, proposed guardians must attend court,  
13 testify, undergo background checks, and be  
14 fingerprinted, steps that many fear could expose them  
15 to ICE enforcement. Recent months have seen more  
16 potential guardians withdraw from the process due to  
17 fear of being detained at court or having their  
18 fingerprints shared with immigration authorities,  
19 making it significantly harder for young people to  
20 pursue relief. A young person's family members and  
21 friends should not be put at risk because the young  
22 person is pursuing legal immigration relief.  
23 Similarly, a young person's opportunity to pursue  
24 immigration relief should not be jeopardized by the  
25 requirements of the very proceedings that would

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2 result in relief. We call on the City government to  
3 take an immediate and urgent action to protect  
4 immigrant communities (TIMER CHIME) in New York and  
5 to take specific steps to attend to the needs of  
6 immigrant youth who are often the most vulnerable and  
7 least resourced. Thank you.

SHRADDHA JOSHI: Good afternoon, everyone.

9 My name is Shraddha Joshi, and I'm also a paralegal  
10 at The Door working with the detained minors project  
11 We at The Door have seen firsthand the impact of  
12 ICE's violent extrajudicial activity on immigrant  
13 communities and particularly youth who are amongst  
14 the most vulnerable people facing the U.S.  
15 Immigration System. As of November, ICE has sent over  
16 600 children to youth detention centers this year,  
17 reaching an unprecedented number. Some of these  
18 children are migrant youth who were separated from  
19 their families upon entry to the U.S, while others  
20 are children who were previously detained in ORR  
21 years ago have been living in their communities for  
22 years and were recently arrested and completely  
23 served their time after their arrest and yet have  
24 still been picked up by ICE and sent to ORR  
25 detention. The detained youth that we serve in New

2 York face isolation and unique challenges posed by  
3 escalated ICE presence. A former client of The Door  
4 who was aging out of the ORR system upon turning 18  
5 reported significant difficulties and distress in  
6 detention as staff members did not speak his language  
7 and his legal support team at The Door were the only  
8 people who could provide him with necessary resources  
9 about navigating potential ICE interactions despite  
10 rapidly changing information. During a recent know  
11 your rights presentation for another detained ORR  
12 client who was picked up by ICE in one of New York  
13 City's boroughs, we explained to him the importance  
14 of not opening the door to ICE agents. He asked us  
15 what happens if ICE breaks down your door. That's  
16 what happened to us. That's what the young child told  
17 us. Immigrant children in particular are being  
18 subject to violence and separation from their loved  
19 ones due to the presence of ICE in their communities  
20 compounded by the already grueling challenges of  
21 building a stable life and pursuing relief in the  
22 city. For members of The Door who have been released  
23 from the detention, this fear does not subside. Last  
24 month, a member of The Door pursuing asylum relief  
25 mentioned that a therapist in a group home run by the

2 City told him that he's on a removal list and that he  
3 should avoid going out for fear of ICE. While we were  
4 able to clarify this misinformation, the constant  
5 threat of detention and surveillance has been  
6 debilitating for the youth that we serve, impacting  
7 their willingness to attend school or to access  
8 necessary resources. As legal service providers, we  
9 strive to do our duty in supporting vulnerable youth.  
10 However, the escalated presence of ICE and the  
11 devastation, fear, and anxiety that it has created in  
12 our neighborhoods has painful impacts on the  
13 communities that we serve. We urge the City Council  
14 to play its crucial role in protecting New Yorkers  
15 from ICE's extrajudicial overreach, holding the NYPD  
16 accountable for its role in aiding and abetting ICE's  
17 actions, and empowering organizations that provide  
18 crucial resources to immigrants and their  
19 communities. New York has long championed the status  
20 of a sanctuary city, and we call on the City Council  
21 to uphold and honor this legacy. Thank you so much.

22 DAVID MOSS: Good afternoon. My name is  
23 David Moss appearing on behalf of the Legal Defense  
24 Fund. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. LDF  
25 is the nation's first and foremost civil rights law

2 organization. We've done significant work to  
3 challenge discriminatory law enforcement conduct in  
4 New York and around the country, and we fought for  
5 the rights of Black immigrants, for example, by  
6 challenging the Trump Administration's rescission of  
7 TPS for Haitian nationals in 2018. Our work on  
8 policing and immigration leads us to conclude that  
9 Intro. 214, the New York City Trust Act, is a  
10 critical tool for upholding the rights of immigrant  
11 New Yorkers, and we urge the Council to pass this  
12 important bill. This year, ICE agents have been  
13 tearing families apart in the hallways of  
14 courthouses, they've marched down Canal Street with  
15 rifles and an armored vehicle to arrest Black and  
16 Brown street vendors, they're pulling people out of  
17 cars in Washington Heights in addition to many of the  
18 other abuses that people have been testifying about  
19 today. It is imperative that the Council take every  
20 measure available to protect New Yorkers from these  
21 abuses. While the City does provide some protection  
22 through local laws meant to limit collaboration  
23 between local and federal authorities, City officials  
24 haven't always complied with these rules. There are  
25 examples of violations, again as we've been hearing

2 about all day and, right now, there's no recourse for  
3 people who are harmed. That means there's no real  
4 accountability, there's no real justice, and the City  
5 has less incentive to actually follow the law. The  
6 NYC Trust Act is necessary to enforce these rights  
7 and to protect New Yorkers who are most at risk from  
8 the abuses, particularly now under this  
9 Administration. While we're on this issue of harmful  
10 collaboration between local and federal authorities,  
11 I will also repeat our call for the City Council to  
12 eliminate the NYPD Gang Database. I know this bill is  
13 not on the docket today, but the connections to this  
14 issue are clear. The database is a glaring civil  
15 rights injustice with thousands of Black and Latino  
16 New Yorkers baselessly tagged for aggressive policing  
17 because of where they live and the color of their  
18 skin. Most people in the database have no prior  
19 felonies and nothing to do with gun violence, but  
20 still ICE uses unreliable racially charged local gang  
21 databases to carry out its arrest and deportations.  
22 In Chicago, ICE took hundreds of names from the local  
23 gang database there to try to arrest people at  
24 airports and border crossings. In D.C. and Boston,  
25 ICE has used local gang databases to arrest children.

2 Kilmar Abrego Garcia was shipped to a notorious  
3 prison in El Salvador in part because of an  
4 unreliable entry in a local gang database. There are  
5 many reasons to abolish the NYPD Gang Database, and  
6 the role that it can play in facilitating inhumane  
7 deportations and arrests is an important one and it  
8 speaks directly to the possible harms of local  
9 collaboration with federal immigration authorities.

10 Thank you.

11 DURGA SREENIVASAN: Good afternoon,  
12 Committee Members, and thank you for this opportunity  
13 today and for your continued leadership in the realm  
14 of immigration and immigrants like my parents. We all  
15 look up to you as leaders. My name is Durga  
16 Sreenivasan. I'm born and raised in New York City.  
17 I'm here with the Livable Future Package and Equal  
18 Planet. So, learning what a sanctuary city meant when  
19 I was five years old was the moment I fell in love  
20 with this city. We would do more for the world than  
21 the rest of this country entirely. Then again and  
22 again I fell in love with this city from SoCon  
23 Roosevelt Avenue to the Buddhist temples around us  
24 here in Chinatown. But yet as a child of immigrants,  
25 I have seen people around me getting snatched,

2 getting taken away, and nobody's doing anything about  
3 it. The guy downstairs, Mayor Adams, he's doing  
4 nothing. In fact, he's empowering them to take our  
5 people and, as a child of immigrants, I have to use  
6 my privilege, and so many of us have to, to stand up  
7 for people like my parents, immigrants who are  
8 vulnerable at this moment. And, since last year's  
9 presidential election, we have endured fear,  
10 exclusion, relentless attacks on our safety and our  
11 dignity, and the bills before us today, Intro. 214,  
12 The Trust Act, Intro. 1412, the Safer Sanctuary Act,  
13 these are critical steps to secure accountability and  
14 rebuild trust with immigrant families like mine, and  
15 these acts will give us something that we currently  
16 lack, which is a real remedy to what these City  
17 agencies, such as NYPD, DOC, or DOP, have done to  
18 violate our sanctuary city laws. Too often, we're  
19 experiencing as unlawful sharing of information or  
20 just cooperation with ICE by our own city that's  
21 supposed to serve us. So, Intro. 1412 introduced by  
22 Council Member Tiffany Cabán, it's equally necessary  
23 with the Trust Act because after Mayor Adams'  
24 Executive Order 50 last year, which is an attempt to  
25 open the door for ICE's return to Rikers, we saw just

2 how fragile our sanctuary framework can be and is. So  
3 now for decades, we have led the nation on forward-  
4 thinking sanctuary policies but leadership means  
5 vigilance, updating, and enforcing these protections  
6 as threats evolved, and protecting immigrants, again  
7 like my family. I urge our Council to swiftly pass  
8 Intro. 214, Intro. 1412, and the slew the docket of  
9 legislation that we have that can protect immigrants  
10 against ICE and their rampant harm to our city. Thank  
11 you.

12 HADIA ALI: Good afternoon, Chair Avilés  
13 and Council Members. My name is Hadia Ali, and I'm a  
14 Youth Organizer with the AYA Network. I live and go  
15 to school in District 45, a district filled with  
16 South Asian, Caribbean, and Hispanic communities who  
17 live in the shadow of ICE every day. Less than a year  
18 into the Trump Administration, the violence we're  
19 witnessing has only escalated. ICE is terrorizing our  
20 neighborhoods and, instead of doing their jobs and  
21 protecting the people of this city, too many agencies  
22 have chosen to stand behind them. ICE has tased,  
23 maced, shot at, and kidnapped New Yorkers off the  
24 streets. They've stormed our neighborhoods, stalked  
25 subway stations, and waited outside schools,

2 shelters, hospitals, and even Federal Plaza, places  
3 that should be protected in any city that calls  
4 itself a sanctuary. And instead of stopping them or  
5 at the very least protecting New Yorkers, the NYPD  
6 has chosen to stand with them. Last weekend, we  
7 watched officers protect ICE agents and attack New  
8 Yorkers who were forming human barricades to defend  
9 their neighbors. It is absurd that the NYPD fails to  
10 protect the very people it is sworn to serve and in  
11 doing so actively puts hundreds of New Yorkers in  
12 harm's way. At the same time, the Department of  
13 Corrections has been quietly feeding ICE information,  
14 funneling people from Rikers into ICE custody in  
15 clear violation of our sanctuary city laws. ACS has  
16 also been reported sharing private information with  
17 ICE, putting young people of color and their families  
18 directly at risk. And all of this has happened under  
19 a mayoral administration that has been weak,  
20 complicit, and uninterested in defending the very  
21 sanctuary protections that this City claims to value.  
22 Mayor Adams even attempted to bring ICE back onto  
23 Rikers Island a decade after community organizing  
24 forced them out, exploiting loopholes and twisting  
25 our laws to justify federal overreach. New York City

2 prides itself on honoring its long history of  
3 diversity, celebrating the languages, foods, and  
4 cultures that make this city unlike anywhere else,  
5 but that pride means nothing when we fail to protect  
6 the same immigrant communities, especially when the  
7 laws meant to protect them already exist, but are not  
8 enforced. That is why it is essential for Intro. 214,  
9 the NYC Trust Act, to be passed in this budget cycle.  
10 This bill would create a private right of action,  
11 giving New Yorkers the legal power to hold NYPD, the  
12 Department of Corrections, ACS, and every City agency  
13 accountable when they violate sanctuary law. In my  
14 community in District 45, ICE has scared people off  
15 the streets, scared them to go to work, scared to  
16 pick up their children from school, scared to even  
17 attend their immigration hearings. For my own family,  
18 it's meant having to reevaluate our future included  
19 in my future in college. God forbid a loved one gets  
20 detained. No young person should never have to think  
21 about their future through the lens of whether their  
22 family will be safe, and yet for many of us, that's a  
23 reality we're forced to confront every day as we see  
24 our community members disappear. Passing the NYC  
25 Trust Act is essential to (TIMER CHIME) reducing that

2 fear and protecting and immigrant New Yorkers across  
3 the city. We deserve a city that protects the people  
4 who keep who keep it running, a city that stands with  
5 the communities it claims to honor and doesn't have  
6 bend. So, I urge the Council to pass the NYC Trust  
7 Act, take this burden off our communities, and  
8 finally enforce the protections New Yorkers are owed.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you so much to  
11 this panel for raising a couple of additional but  
12 highly connected issues, particularly the gang  
13 database and how this database is not only used here  
14 to criminalize citizens and non-citizens alike but  
15 also across the country and it is definitely overdue  
16 time that we abolish that database.

17 Also, I guess I just wanted to do ask a  
18 point of clarification to Shraddha. In your  
19 testimony, you mentioned, was it a Department of  
20 Health employee that had told someone that they  
21 should just not go out in response to whatever  
22 erroneous information they had?

23 SHRADDHA JOSHI: So it was a therapist in  
24 a group home that is run by the City, and the young  
25 person we were working with was formerly at ORR and

2 now is in a URM facility, which is for basically  
3 young people who have experienced a level of trauma.  
4 And in that group home setting there was a visiting  
5 therapist and we don't have contact with her so I'm  
6 not exactly sure what her qualifications were, but I  
7 think that just illustrates the fact that this is  
8 such a general fear and obviously while it is  
9 misinformation, at the same time, we never really  
10 give those young people the assurance that they are  
11 safe when they go out because that fear is still  
12 something that they have in the back of their heads  
13 and it is very well-founded as well.

14 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Yeah, no. You know,  
15 the mental health implications of certainly all this  
16 trauma that is that of people are getting  
17 retraumatized over and just the fear in general is  
18 really quite significant, and I think, while I don't  
19 know this individual and I hope they are not a New  
20 York City employee, it certainly does underscore the  
21 importance of an informed and compassionate group of  
22 professionals that are engaging with people because  
23 that is not helpful. Do not go out is ridiculous. So,  
24 if they are watching, they need to correct themselves  
25 and get some training.

2                   But thank you for the work that you're  
3 doing and your testimony today. Really appreciate it.

4 Thank you.

5                   We're going to call the next panel.

6 Amadou Ly, Michael Loeb, Kader Guerrab, and Enrique,  
7 Enrique, I cannot read your last name.

8                   AMADOU LY: Good afternoon, Council  
9 Members and everyone who gather here today. Thank you  
10 so much for this opportunity. My name is Amadou Ly,  
11 I'm the Founder of the Amadou Ly Foundation, an  
12 organization that serves New York's largest West  
13 African immigrant population, reaching thousands of  
14 families across New York City and over 15 states.  
15 Throughout our digital platform, our videos regularly  
16 reach 150,000 to 250,000 people, making us one of the  
17 most influential immigrant-led network in the city  
18 and beyond. I'm here today in strong support of  
19 Intro. 214, the New York City Trust Act. My story  
20 begins with a moment that changed my life forever.  
21 Before I led an organization, before my life story  
22 made the front page of the New York Times as an  
23 undocumented immigrant facing deportation, before I  
24 play the role of Henry in a blog was a film Twilight  
25 Breaking Dawn, before I became a mentor and advocate,

2 I was a simple, young, undocumented Black immigrant  
3 trying to survive. In 2014, I was involved in a car  
4 accident in Pittsburgh. What happened next changed my  
5 life. The police officer who responded to the scene  
6 saw clearly what had happened. He knew that the White  
7 truck driver was at fault. He knew that if the report  
8 were written truthfully, it would reflect that. But  
9 instead of documenting the truth, instead of ensuring  
10 safety and accountability, he made a decision that  
11 haunts me to this day. He called ICE, not because I  
12 was a threat, not because I committed a crime. He  
13 called ICE because in his mind, handing me over was  
14 the easiest way to resolve the situation and protect  
15 the other driver. I will never forget what it felt  
16 like to be handcuffed after a car accident, to be  
17 treated as disposable, to be handed over to  
18 immigration officers because of someone else's  
19 wrongdoing. That experience taught me something I  
20 have never forgotten. When the wrong person makes the  
21 wrong decision, an immigrant's life can be shattered  
22 in an instant, and that must never happen in New York  
23 City. My voice reaches hundreds of thousands, and I  
24 used it to tell immigrants that come to New York, New  
25 York was safe. Before the 2024 election as anti-

2 immigrant rhetoric swept the country, I made video  
3 after video urging immigrant families if you're  
4 scared, come to New York, this city will protect you.  
5 Those videos went viral, reaching more than 200,000  
6 views. People trusted us. They trusted me. They  
7 trusted this city. But in recent months when family  
8 sees NYPD or City agency share information with ICE,  
9 sealed records shared illegally, deportations after  
10 charges were dismissed, my community comes to me and  
11 asks Amadou, is New York still safe. Were we lied to?  
12 Did the City betray us? And I don't have the answers.  
13 The Canal Street raid made the truth impossible to  
14 ignore. What we witnessed last week on Canal Street  
15 was undeniable. In a matter of seconds, NYPD officers  
16 were on the scene protecting ICE, supporting ICE, and  
17 enabling ICE. (TIMER CHIME) If you ask me was that a  
18 joint operation, I'll say yes. There's something else  
19 I would like to point out on record. On September  
20 22nd during this second ICE raid, NYPD were present  
21 from the early morning until 11 a.m. Immediately  
22 after they left, ICE arrived and arrested a street  
23 vendor named Abdou Tall. I spoke with Mr. Tall every  
24 single day since his arrest. My organization file a  
25 habeas petition for him and help him secure an

2 attorney, but something about that morning was  
3 disturbing. They knew exactly where Mr. Tall was.  
4 Before ICE arrived, there was an undercover car  
5 positioned behind him, not ICE. ICE showed up only  
6 afterward to take him away. Later when the New York  
7 Post reported on the case, ICE claimed that NYPD had  
8 arrested him on October 11th. This is not an isolated  
9 incident. This is a pattern that mirrors what  
10 happened to me years ago. Plus, I believe we need to  
11 find a solution for Canal Street vendors. While it is  
12 important to push back against raids and ICE  
13 Collaboration, we also need to help these vendors  
14 find sustainable alternatives. I recently heard Tom  
15 Holman on Fox News stating that ICE will be back in  
16 Canal Street but guess what? The vendors are already  
17 back because they need work to survive. If resistance  
18 continue without offering a real alternative, we will  
19 risk having further ICE deployment in New York City,  
20 or even worse, the National Guard. We must create a  
21 pathway of vulnerability and ensure that these New  
22 Yorkers have options that protect their safety and  
23 livelihood. The Amadou Ly Foundation has proposed a  
24 plan to train Canal Street vendors as barbers, a  
25 trade that does not require formal education, but

2 offers a legitimate safe path to economic stability.  
3 It has been extremely difficult, almost impossible,  
4 for African asylum seekers to access funding or  
5 support for education. Our proposal addressed this  
6 gap by providing scholarships for these vendors to  
7 attend barber schools. We give them real opportunity  
8 to gain a trade, support themselves, and build a  
9 stable life here in New York. We're asking the City  
10 Council to support this proposal, work with the  
11 Amadou Ly Foundation to create a concrete solution  
12 for Canal Street that protects our community and  
13 reduce the likelihood of ICE enforcement in our city.

14 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

15 AMADOU LY: Thank you so much.

16 MICHAEL LOEB: Hello. My name is Michael  
17 Loeb. I'm here from Brooklyn from (INAUDIBLE) for  
18 Facial and Economic Justice and as someone who  
19 regularly does accompaniments to asylum hearings and  
20 tries to provide support for folks in detention. Also  
21 here as an educator and a father. It's cool to see  
22 only women and fems and folks with some connection to  
23 immigration, but it's actually not cool. And as we've  
24 said, it's disappointing that the rest of the  
25 Administration is not here. I ask us to back up and

2 take a breather for a second and recall that the  
3 whole premise of immigration enforcement is malarkey.  
4 Ezra Klein is wrong about many things but not the  
5 idea of abundance. I think with some redistribution,  
6 there's enough housing, food, health care, and safety  
7 for all. Borders are a scarcity fiction and no human  
8 is illegal. Second, what you're offering is a stopgap  
9 harm reduction. When we abolish ICE and we welcome  
10 all folks, there'll be no more need for sanctuary  
11 laws or prevention against collusion. But also what I  
12 want to really share is a story of what happens when  
13 we don't welcome the stranger. It's a story I've told  
14 of many times and I'll tell it as many times as I  
15 need to. My father fled Nazi Germany in 1939. He was  
16 a 9-year-old Jewish child. His town was really  
17 destroyed for the Jewish people in it, and the boat  
18 he was on was the SS St. Louis. They all had visas.  
19 There were 920 folks on board. They had visas for  
20 Cuba, but ultimately were not allowed in. The captain  
21 and advocates appealed to all the governments in the  
22 hemisphere and said please take them and no one  
23 accepted them. That includes my father wrote that he  
24 sailed so close to Miami they could see the lights  
25 and the Coast Guard actually came out to make sure

2 they didn't dock. This really satisfied Nazi  
3 propagandists. The ship returned to Europe, a quarter  
4 to England, a quarter to France, a quarter to  
5 Netherlands, and a quarter to Belgium, which is where  
6 my father went. Eventually his father made it to  
7 Elmira, New York and was able to send for him, his  
8 mom, and younger sister but his grandparents were  
9 murdered at Auschwitz because Belgium was overrun, so  
10 250 out of the 920 people on that ship were  
11 eventually murdered. Back to today, just as never  
12 again means never again for anyone in Palestine,  
13 never again should we reject those seeking refuge.

14 (TIMER CHIME) Whatever we can do to ensure proper  
15 functioning of the asylum system, we must do. I go to  
16 Federal Plaza, 290 Broadway, and 201 Barrack, I've  
17 been doing it for seven years, and I've seen the  
18 rights of people of all genders and ages trampled by  
19 cowards and bigots. On a personal and spiritual  
20 level, I know that everyone participating in this  
21 will answer to God and to time for your crimes, but  
22 in the meantime legally we need to protect our  
23 neighbors and pass these bills.

24 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

2 KADER GUERRAB: Yes. All right. Hi. My  
3 name is Kader. I'm a proud Brooklyn boy and CUNY  
4 student. First, I want to start things off. I want to  
5 thank Alexa Avilés for educating immigrants on their  
6 rights, and I think New Yorkers should be thankful  
7 for the service she has done to protect people from  
8 ICE. First, I want to start things off with saying,  
9 you know, in the beginning ICE was saying, you know,  
10 we're doing this for safety and we're going to do  
11 this mass deportation, but almost three-quarters of  
12 the people they are detaining are innocent and have  
13 no criminal conviction, maybe a traffic violation, a  
14 parking ticket, you know, just little things like  
15 that. No convictions whatsoever. And I think  
16 everybody knows what they're doing is cruel and  
17 inhumane, but also what they're doing is illegal,  
18 detaining people without due process, without a  
19 warrant, arresting people without identifying  
20 themselves because by law, just in case somebody  
21 doesn't know, when you get arrested, the police have  
22 to do fill out a report, and they have to give you  
23 documents with their name on it and their badge  
24 number, and so basically that's the problem. We need  
25 to hold ICE accountable for issues, especially the

2 issue I hear about at Federal Plaza where they detain  
3 people who are trying to do the right thing, you  
4 know, and we should not have the NYPD collaborating  
5 with ICE. The NYPD is an agency that will be here.  
6 They're going to be here now. They're going to be  
7 here a hundred years from now, and we should I think  
8 use the NYPD to arrest ICE agents. I have heard of a  
9 story in Queens where these people were being  
10 detained by ICE in their homes and somebody called 9-  
11 1-1 and then the police came to see what was going  
12 on. And then they said oh, we're ICE and then they  
13 let them go. That is unacceptable by the NYPD, and  
14 the NYPD should intervene to arrest ICE. We should  
15 not have a double standard for a regular criminal  
16 versus ICE agents. And so I think the good news is we  
17 have a mayor who's a corrupt mayor who's on his way  
18 out of office so I think this will be easier to slow  
19 things down. I don't think we're going to get rid of  
20 ICE for at least the next several years but, you  
21 know, we have a mayor that care, Zohran Mamdani who I  
22 proudly canvassed for and so, yes and somebody who  
23 cares for New York City residents.

24 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you. Thank you  
25 all for your test testimony.

2                   Yeah, I guess I just wanted to say one  
3 thing really quickly. Michael, thank you for lifting  
4 up what never again means, and I think it is so  
5 important for never again for anyone, never again  
6 denying people seeking refuge, be lifted up  
7 particularly in this city and in this country, and so  
8 thank you for sharing your story and your advocacy  
9 and living into what never again means for all people  
10 and dignity so I just wanted to personally.

11                  And Amadou, thank you for the work that  
12 you are doing as well, and I think the  
13 vulnerabilities, particularly of our African  
14 siblings, and how we have failed Black people in this  
15 country continues but your work gives me great hope,  
16 and thank you for your testimony and thank you for  
17 the continued work to make sure that people can  
18 receive dignity and the work to survive and live and  
19 thrive in this city and it looks many different ways.  
20 And so I just want to personally thank you for doing  
21 that as well. Thank you for your testimony.

22                  And we had one more, Enrique. Enrique,  
23 were you going to testify?

24                  Oh, I'm so sorry. Council Member Cabán to  
25 say something.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I won't keep you  
3 long. I just want to extend the same gratitude to you  
4 both for sharing your stories, and I think we both  
5 had, the Chair and I had similar reactions and how  
6 resonant, Michael, the words that you shared when you  
7 talk about refugee stories. I mean we are entering  
8 Christmas season and the way that the most famous  
9 refugees were treated during that time and then it  
10 also reminds me of that poem by Warsan Shire when he  
11 said that no one leaves home unless home is the mouth  
12 of a shark. And just keeping that in mind when we  
13 encounter folks who make the heart-wrenching  
14 dangerous decision to leave everything to come here  
15 and the welcome that they deserve rather than the  
16 violence that they are being confronted with so thank  
17 you again for grounding us in in those stories and  
18 those values

19 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Great. So, we have  
20 one more in-person panel before we turn it over to  
21 the Zoom panelists.

22 Next, we have Raul Rivera.

23 RAUL RIVERA: Good afternoon. My name is  
24 Raul Rivera. I'm a New York native. I was born in the  
25 Bronx, a few blocks from Yankee Stadium. I'm here

2 today to oppose these bills, and I'll give you my  
3 reason, all of them and any bills that you pass  
4 previously. In January 16 at the beginning of this  
5 year, I came to this Committee and I believe that  
6 you're not a Council Member that could be trusted. I  
7 said that. We don't have anything personal against  
8 you even though you may think that, but I just  
9 believe that you're a Council Member that can't be  
10 trusted. We don't support these bills, we don't  
11 support these bills, and everybody's talking about  
12 illegals and migration and criminals and not  
13 criminals, but if you cross the border, if you cross  
14 the border and it's not through the port of entry,  
15 that is a crime. I hope you know that's a crime. So,  
16 that's a crime when you cross the border illegally,  
17 not through the port of entry. I think you know that.  
18 We told you back in January, and this time we'll say  
19 it again that you need to be investigated. Your bills  
20 that you pass through here must be investigated. I  
21 know you think that's funny, but honestly, it's not.  
22 You say you advocate for the poor people and people  
23 of color but you just made the New York Post. You're  
24 worth 1.8 million dollars. You're buying homes in  
25 Florida. You're a Democrat. you're a Democrat, right?

2 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: I suggest you keep it  
3 focused on the topic at hand or else your testimony  
4 will end and you will be out of order so focus on the  
5 topic at hand, which is immigration or you are out of  
6 order and your testimony will be ended.

7 RAUL RIVERA: You're the Chair to the  
8 Committee on Immigration.

9 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Focus. You have one  
10 minute left. Focus on the topic at hand or you will  
11 be out of order and your testimony will be over.

12 RAUL RIVERA: What did I say? What did I  
13 say was out of order?

14 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: You have 57 seconds  
15 to make your case.

16 RAUL RIVERA: You keep interrupting me  
17 though.

18 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: You have 52 seconds  
19 to make your case.

20 RAUL RIVERA: Well, I think people should  
21 know that you're worth 1.8 million dollars.

22 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: 47 seconds.

23 RAUL RIVERA: Important. I think that's  
24 important. I think...

2 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: I'm worth a lot more  
3 by the way for the record.

4 RAUL RIVERA: Well.

5 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Continue with your  
6 testimony or you will I will end your testimony.

7 RAUL RIVERA: You keep cutting me off.

8 It's hard to speak when you cut...

9 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: 32 seconds and  
10 counting.

11 RAUL RIVERA: Dr. King stood with Israel  
12 and you stand with an anti-Semite. God bless Donald  
13 Trump.

14 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Again, sir.

15 RAUL RIVERA: Zohran Mamdani is an anti-  
16 Semite...

17 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Out of order. You are  
18 not on the record.

19 RAUL RIVERA: Fuck Palestine. That's what  
20 we say. Fuck Palestine.

21 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Testimony is over.  
22 You're grotesque. You are grotesque.

23 All right. So next we have our Zoom.  
24 We'll open it up to the zoom panelists. So after and  
25

2 a final... whoops, here we go. So all folks on Zoom, we  
3 will call your name and feel free to unmute yourself.

4 Order in the Chamber. If you cannot be  
5 quiet, you will be removed. Order in the Chamber. I  
6 suggest you get removed.

7 I'm sorry for those on Zoom.

8 Okay. For those of us in the Chamber,  
9 unfortunately, I apologize to everyone who had to  
10 listen to the despicable words of a despicable human.

11 Moving on to those who have patiently  
12 waited on Zoom. First, we're going to call Andrew  
13 Walsh followed by Rex Chen.

14 Andrew, feel free to unmute yourself.

15 ANDREW WALSH: Hi. Good afternoon. Thank  
16 you for the opportunity to testify today before the  
17 Committee on Immigration. My name is Andrew Walsh. I  
18 am the Managing Attorney for the Detained Program at  
19 Kids in Need of Defense in the New York office. I  
20 would like to thank the Council Members for putting  
21 forth these critical proposals and to all the  
22 witnesses and community members for the really  
23 impactful and powerful testimony that was given  
24 today. I think a lot of what I wanted to say has been  
25 said very eloquently by numerous other testifiers

2 already so I'll just provide a brief statement of  
3 support particularly for Introduction 1268 as well as  
4 for the proposals to demand accountability on all  
5 City agencies who would collude with and/or share  
6 information with ICE. My team works with undocumented  
7 children specifically and their families and in  
8 particular with unaccompanied minors throughout the  
9 five boroughs and, in the past year, we have observed  
10 a notable trend of families who are afraid to go out  
11 in public and specifically when it comes to entering  
12 government buildings, whether that be federal, state,  
13 or local. To that end, I think publicly posted  
14 placards throughout the city indicating which areas  
15 are private or public and informing individuals of  
16 their specific rights could provide some degree of  
17 comfort to those individuals who must enter City  
18 property and locations. This is especially critical  
19 for the populations we serve who are routinely  
20 required to enter municipal courts as part of their  
21 immigration cases so signage reinforcing the rights  
22 of those who enter these spaces is a crucial step in  
23 ensuring that the populations we serve have  
24 meaningful access to those rights. Our team also  
25 conducts numerous Know Your Rights trainings for

2 children and their families, and one of the most  
3 common concerns we hear from the communities we serve  
4 is that they fear they won't be able to recall the  
5 information when under high pressure circumstances,  
6 and so having conveniently placed placards containing  
7 this information to reinforce this information is of  
8 vital importance. Currently, we are also working on  
9 hiring community outreach specialists to broaden the  
10 audience for our Know Your Rights presentations, and  
11 so Proposal 1268 would be mutually reinforcing with  
12 those efforts and the efforts of numerous other  
13 advocacy organizations working to provide critical  
14 information to the community. In regards to City  
15 agency collusion with ICE, we are particularly  
16 concerned about reports of ACS collusion and  
17 information sharing as ACS is frequently involved in  
18 cases of unaccompanied minors who may not have other  
19 viable sponsors in the United States, and it is of  
20 the utmost importance that there not be any collusion  
21 or information sharing between ACS and ICE. And so we  
22 view that as a very serious problem and appreciate  
23 the Council's proposals in this regard.

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you. Your time  
25 has expired.

2 ANDREW WALSH: Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you.

4 Next, we'll have Rex Chen, please.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: You may begin.

6 REX CHEN: Good afternoon. My name is Rex  
7 Chen, he/him pronouns. I'm the Supervising Counsel  
8 for Immigrant Rights at LatinoJustice PRLDEF. We're a  
9 civil rights non-profit headquartered in New York  
10 City. We pursue law reform litigation and advocacy to  
11 defend Latinx immigrants' civil and constitutional  
12 rights. In November, we won a 112-million-dollar  
13 federal court jury verdict against Suffolk County  
14 Sheriff's for illegally holding people in local jail  
15 custody based solely on ICE detainer requests. The  
16 civil rights legal action held Suffolk County  
17 accountable for violating people's constitutional  
18 rights at the behest of federal immigration  
19 officials. It addressed the harm they caused by  
20 detaining people illegally. It sent a strong message  
21 to other counties considering cooperating with ICE,  
22 and it helped bring a small measure of justice and  
23 compensation to 674 people who were illegally  
24 detained in jail for hours or for days. LatinoJustice  
25 strongly supports the New York City Trust Act, which

2 will create a legal mechanism for people harmed by  
3 illegal local police cooperation with ICE to bring  
4 legal action. Our lawsuit against Suffolk County  
5 shows how important it is to create a way to address  
6 the harm of illegal cooperation with ICE. The New  
7 York City Trust Act will build trust. It will  
8 therefore strengthen our city's health, economy and  
9 public safety. It is a smart and wise action by the  
10 City Council to make New York City even stronger. We  
11 also support Intro. 1412, and that follows through on  
12 the City Council successful legal action to keep ICE  
13 out of Rikers. LatinoJustice joined with the Legal  
14 Aid Society and other groups in an amicus brief to  
15 support the City Council's lawsuit. This would clear  
16 up any uncertainty about whether ICE can set up in  
17 Rikers. At LatinoJustice, we see how these laws are  
18 critical to help Latinx folks stay healthy,  
19 contribute to our economy and keep everyone safe.  
20 We're strongest when we work together and we look out  
21 for each other. When one of us is armed, the rest of  
22 us try to help out. These laws would protect New  
23 Yorkers and help defend our city from illegal  
24 immigration raids and from the racial profiling that  
25 ICE engages in across the country. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you so much for  
3 your testimony and your work.

4 Next, we have Rachana Shah and followed  
5 by Jodi Ziesmer.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: You may begin.

7 RACHANA SHAH: Hi. Good morning, Honorable  
8 Council. Thank you for hearing our testimonies today.  
9 My name is Rachana Shah. I'm a resident of Forest  
10 Hills, Queens, and a mother of two children, ages 11  
11 and 9. I'm a zero waste educator and an advocate for  
12 justice for all beings under the American principles  
13 that all people are created equal and that in this  
14 country, you are innocent until proven guilty.

15 Importantly, I am the daughter of immigrants. I'm  
16 also on the Parent Teacher Association for my  
17 children's school in Astoria, Queens. My children  
18 attend school just 10 blocks from where a 6-year-old  
19 went to school who is not in school today because his  
20 father was forcibly separated from him at his  
21 regularly scheduled immigration check-in and now the  
22 boy is missing. My 9-year-old still tears up if she  
23 can't find us for less than a minute. Where is this  
24 child? Is he sleeping on a cold concrete floor? Is he  
25 scared? Is he terrified that his father will be taken

2 from him? It may be the new American way to persecute  
3 Brown people like this, but it is not the New York  
4 way. The parents in my community are in a panic. How  
5 dare ICE and DHS and whichever other agencies are  
6 involved terrorize children like this? Children! How  
7 dare they terrorize families? How dare they terrorize  
8 our neighbors and our community? Here in New York, we  
9 value law and order. We have laws in this state that  
10 protect innocent people and protect privacy. Here are  
11 two quotes. States must determine by vote or  
12 legislation or perhaps both and whatever they decide  
13 will be the law of the land in this case, the law of  
14 the state. Second quote, instead of filtering  
15 resources through layers of federal red tape, we will  
16 empower states to take charge and advocate for and  
17 implement what is best for students, families, and  
18 educators in their communities. These two quotes were  
19 said by President Trump in the past, and there must  
20 be consistencies with statements like these.  
21 Therefore, here in New York, we value our sanctuary  
22 laws. We value and cherish our immigrant communities.  
23 I choose to live and raise my children in Queens  
24 because of how enriched our lives have been from  
25 sharing cultures with our community. They do not

2 deserve terror by our own federal agencies that in  
3 many cases have committed illegal acts and they  
4 continue to commit them. We are entitled that if they  
5 want to take space in our state that they follow our  
6 State laws. Therefore, I strongly support all the  
7 bills discussed today, Intros Number 1412, 0214,  
8 1268, and 1272. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you so much for  
10 your testimony. We share in the horror of the child  
11 who was abducted by ICE.

12 Next, we'll have Jodi Ziesemer.

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: You may begin.

14 JODI ZIESEMER: Thank you. I'm Jodi  
15 Ziesemer. I'm the Policy Director for Immigration  
16 Emergency Response at the New York Legal Assistance  
17 Group, or NYLAG. Thank you for the opportunity to  
18 testify at today's hearing. NYLAG applauds Council  
19 Members Hanif, Cabán, and Avilés for their leadership  
20 and vocal support of our immigrant communities and  
21 for protecting our communities in these brutal and  
22 violent times. NYLAG supports all four of the  
23 proposed City bills on the agenda for today and  
24 recognizes that they address critical gaps in our  
25 City's sanctuary protections, and we urge the passage

2 of all four. I wanted just to speak briefly today  
3 about the Introduction 1268 regarding signage. NYLAG  
4 has heard from City health clinics in the South  
5 Bronx, hospitals in Manhattan and Queens, various  
6 community centers, and private businesses who are  
7 interested in posting information to message to their  
8 immigrant patients, clients, and constituents, but  
9 lack the knowledge and resources to develop and  
10 translate such information. The signage bill would  
11 provide necessary support for the creation of  
12 unified, legally sound information in various  
13 languages for those institutions and will help signal  
14 New York City's knowledge and support of the local  
15 and federal laws, limiting ICE's authority and reach.  
16 In the past, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs  
17 has played a critical role in creating, translating,  
18 and distributing helpful community-facing resources  
19 on everything from knowing your rights to what to do  
20 when a loved one is detained by ICE. They've  
21 collaborated with legal services to create and  
22 broadcast these resources, but that has been less  
23 prominent in recent years. As this Council has noted,  
24 MOIA has been absent in broadcasting information,  
25 creating new flyers to address this current moment.

2 And they've been notably absent on social media and  
3 other platforms to really update immigrant  
4 communities and City agencies about how to respond to  
5 this moment. And so there's really necessary to  
6 reinvigorate this collaboration and this bill will  
7 help support that. We're also out of step with other  
8 cities, such as Chicago, which have mayor-led  
9 initiatives to protect their residents and provide  
10 consolidated resources on immigration, constitutional  
11 rights, housing, protests, and more. Anti-immigrant  
12 rhetoric has been a prominent feature of the Trump  
13 Administration, and we hope to find increased  
14 opportunities to partner with New York City to  
15 present a countervailing narrative, to welcome our  
16 immigrant neighbors, fight this divisive, violent,  
17 and xenophobic rhetoric, and reassure them that New  
18 York is a safe space. So, we strongly support the  
19 implementation of this bill. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you, Jodi.

21 Sorry for mispronouncing your last name.

22 Next, we'll have Heather Maria followed  
23 by Jenna Jaffe.

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: You may begin.

2 HEATHER MARIA: Hi, everyone. Thank you  
3 for this opportunity. I'm testifying to support  
4 Initiatives 214 and 1412. After hearing the  
5 testimonies today, the other initiatives as well,  
6 I've learned so much today. It's been very powerful.  
7 Thank you for this hearing. I'm an individual of  
8 mixed descent, Mexican, Hungarian, Scots-Irish, all  
9 immigrants, and an educator in New York City public  
10 schools for 20 years. Thank you also for pronouncing  
11 my name correctly. I participate in Court Watch for  
12 immigration cases at places like Federal Plaza, and  
13 the fear and terror I've witnessed as community  
14 members follow the law to show up for court, only to  
15 be terrorized with the possibilities and realities of  
16 being abducted is reprehensible. Families with little  
17 children, it is gut-wrenching. Knowing that ICE is  
18 showing up at New York City Public Schools, it's  
19 disgusting and devastating, of course, anywhere else  
20 in New York City or the rest of the country. The  
21 story I heard today of ACS colluding, sharing  
22 information via request for therapy services is  
23 absolutely horrendous. Thank you. Mil gracias to  
24 Council Members Cabán and Hanif and Avilés. I'll stop  
25

2 there. I sent in a written testimony as well. Thank  
3 you, everyone, for your work.

4 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you for your  
5 testimony.

6 Next, we will have Jenna followed by  
7 Christopher Leon Johnson.

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: You may begin.

9 JENNA JAFFE: Hi. My name is Jenna Jaffe.  
10 I'm a resident of Brooklyn, New York and, for the  
11 past 10 years, I've been an immigration caseworker  
12 for a Member of Congress, but I'm here today in my  
13 personal capacity to testify in support of the New  
14 York City Trust Act. That's why I came today, but I'm  
15 in support of all of the bills that are being  
16 discussed today. And rather than repeat some of the  
17 information that's already been shared, I'm really  
18 here today to share what I know from my experience  
19 about what the U.S. government does to people it  
20 considers unlawfully present. I've spent many, many  
21 hours, many days waiting outside of 26 Federal Plaza,  
22 hoping and praying that I don't have to call  
23 someone's spouse or children and give them the worst  
24 news of their life with no explanation, no records  
25 that will ever see the light of day, and no warrants.

2 I know multiple immigration attorneys who have been  
3 threatened with arrest just for asking to see  
4 warrants when their clients are being detained by  
5 ICE. Under the first Trump Administration, Homeland  
6 Security Investigations, which is a sub office of  
7 ICE, that is theoretically responsible for thwarting  
8 complex organized criminal activity. It also relies  
9 almost entirely on information passed through state  
10 and local law enforcement. HSI had undercover agents  
11 patronizing migrant sex workers that ICE itself had  
12 identified as victims of a trafficking ring. This  
13 happened multiple times with leadership's knowledge  
14 and ultimately collapsed an entire three-year  
15 investigation. ICE dropped every single charge they  
16 had filed rather than allow those agents to testify  
17 about their own conduct in court. That's our tax  
18 dollars at work. I've seen ICE deny medical treatment  
19 to a man who was transferred into their custody by  
20 the local Department of Corrections until that man  
21 fell into a coma, then handcuffed his unconscious  
22 body to a gurney and humanitarian released him to a  
23 public hospital so that ICE did not have to count his  
24 death as a death in custody and so that his widow  
25 would be responsible for the medical bills instead of

2 the government. This man was 27 years old at the  
3 time. I have repeatedly listened to ICE agents  
4 perjure themselves in court consistently with  
5 impunity because there have been zero consequences.  
6 It can't continue and we can't keep waiting for the  
7 federal government to step in, obviously. Immigration  
8 Enforcement pepper sprayed a sitting member of  
9 Congress last week and I doubt there will even be an  
10 investigation. If anyone must take lead, if anywhere  
11 must be the first to impose material consequences for  
12 municipal officials who collaborate with ICE, it  
13 should be in New York City. And it should be  
14 mentioned that if we don't give people legal options  
15 to defend ourselves when an extrajudicial secret  
16 police force is assaulting and abusing our loved ones  
17 and our family members, what do we think is going to  
18 happen? Will the public simply roll over and watch?  
19 No. Violence begets more violence and that violence  
20 is the fuel that ICE needs to survive. So I am  
21 calling today on the City Council to pass the New  
22 York City Trust Act and trust me when I say that we  
23 will be back here every opportunity, every hearing,  
24 every session until something changes. Thank you for  
25 your time.

2 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you for your  
3 testimony. And yes, New York City must be the place  
4 that holds the standard. Thank you.

5 Next, we'll have Christopher Leon  
6 Johnson.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: You may begin.

8 CHRISTOPHER LEON JOHNSON: Hello. Good  
9 afternoon. My name is Christopher Leon Johnson. I'm  
10 here, I'm somewhere in Queens, testifying virtually,  
11 but I want to make this clear to this panel, this  
12 Committee that what I saw today at the hearing with  
13 the Commissioner speaking right after standing next  
14 to Eric Adams was like a slap in the face to this  
15 Committee. As Chair Alexa Avilés, I don't know what  
16 will happen next year that you or Tiffany Cabán might  
17 not be this Committee because of Julie Menin, but I  
18 think you guys need to make this tough decision, make  
19 this right and tough decision for everybody to say  
20 that this Commissioner, Manny Castro, should not be  
21 reappointed Commissioner in the Mamdani  
22 Administration and make it to where that Murad  
23 Awawdeh of the New York Immigration Coalition be the  
24 Commissioner of the Immigration Department and the  
25 New York City Mayor Office or Hailey Choi (phonetic)

2 or probably Brad Lander, appoint one of those three,  
3 you know what I mean, or Yesenia Mata, you know what  
4 I mean, or Ligia Galapa or Muhammad Atiyah from  
5 Street Vendor Project. But the way that Mr. Manny  
6 Castro has presented himself today, he looked the  
7 shell, he looked out of it, he looked like he didn't  
8 want to be there, he looked like he was dragged  
9 there. This is the reason why that he should not be  
10 the Commissioner in the next administration. He  
11 should be disqualified being a Commissioner in the  
12 next administration. I think Zohran Mamdani should  
13 not reappoint him as the Commissioner and I think  
14 that you should say the same thing. I know it's kind  
15 of tough, he came up there, but you need to make that  
16 tough decision, say that he should not be  
17 Commissioner in the administration. But I want to  
18 make this clear that I support all the bills on this  
19 ticker including Intro. 1272, which is introduced by  
20 Shahana Hanif and I'm going to explain why they got  
21 two minutes of my thing because the reason is because  
22 of deliveristas. And I know that very soon, probably  
23 in the next few years, that the deliveristas will be  
24 made employees. Now, majorities of deliveristas are  
25 undocumented migrants. Now, what E-Verify, what it

2 does is that it makes sure that you legally supposed  
3 to work here. Now, when you have the apps like Uber,  
4 DoorDash, Lyft, and Grubhub and Relay and Capsule add  
5 this provision into or start using the apps, this is  
6 going to really eliminate majority of the workforce,  
7 and I think that you should make it where that the  
8 app should not be able to use this either themselves  
9 because they can easily, oh, they're independent  
10 contractors, but I think that the City Council needs  
11 to start stepping up and make sure that these apps  
12 like Uber, DoorDash, Lyft, and Grubhub does not  
13 implement this stuff when very soon, when it happens  
14 on the Worker Justice Project and 32BJ. Where is 32BJ  
15 on this? Because I know very soon they're going to  
16 implement this provision where that you want to start  
17 using the apps as a Dasher or Grubhubber or Uber,  
18 Eats, anything like that, you have to prove that you  
19 can work in this country and that's going to hurt  
20 majority's workforce. So I support this bill and  
21 that's why I spoke on behalf of supporting this bill.  
22 But back to what I said before, like look, Manny  
23 Castro is not fit to be the Commissioner in the next  
24 administration. He dropped the ball.

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you. Your time  
3 has expired.

4 CHRISTOPHER LEON JOHNSON: Oh, thank you  
5 so much. Enjoy your day.

6 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you. Thank you  
7 for your testimony.

8 We have now heard from everyone who  
9 signed up to testify.

10 If we have inadvertently missed anyone  
11 who would like to testify in person, please visit the  
12 Sergeant's table and complete a witness slip now.

13 If we inadvertently missed anyone who  
14 would like to testify virtually, please use the  
15 raised hand function in Zoom and a Member of our  
16 Staff will call on you in the order of hands raised.

17 All right. Seeing no one else, I would  
18 like to note again that written testimony, which will  
19 be reviewed in full by the Committee Staff, may be  
20 submitted to the record up to 72 hours after the end  
21 of this hearing by emailing it to  
22 testimony@council.nyc.gov.

23 And with that, we adjourn this hearing.

24 [GAVEL]

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 December 31, 2025