

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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December 18, 2025  
Start: 10:57 a.m.  
Recess: 11:05 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING  
ROOM 1

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

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Tiffany Cabán

1 COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Immigration recorded on  
4 December 18, 2025, located in Hearing Room 1 by Nazly  
5 Paytuvi.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the  
8 Committee on Immigration.

9 At this time, please silence all  
10 electronic devices and no one may approach the dais.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: [GAVEL] Good morning.  
13 I am Council Member Alexa Aviles, Chair of the  
14 Committee on Immigration. Thank you to my Committee  
15 Colleagues who have joined us here today. We have  
16 Council Members De La Rosa, Cabán, Joseph, Hanif,  
17 Bottcher, and Brewer. Thank you all for being here  
18 today.

19 The Committee will be voting on Proposed  
20 1412-A sponsored by Council Member Tiffany Cabán.  
21 Proposed Intro. 1412-A will redefine terms concerning  
22 immigration enforcement to account for current  
23 enforcement practices and prohibit the maintenance of  
24 an office or quarters on property under the  
25 jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections by

federal immigration authorities. In 2014, the Council passed Local Law 58 which prohibited the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, from maintaining an office at the Rikers Island Detention Facility to enforce civil immigration law. However, Local Law 58 provides the mayor may, by executive order, authorize federal immigration authorities to maintain an office or quarters on property under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for purposes unrelated to the enforcement of civil immigration laws. And on April 8th, 2025, first Deputy Mayor Randy Mastro signed an executive order to allow ICE to maintain an office on Rikers Island. A lawsuit was filed by the Council, and the order was invalidated by the New York State Supreme Court due to impermissible appearance of a conflict of interest. Proposed Intro. 1412-A would bar federal immigration authorities from maintaining offices or quarters for any purpose on land over which DOC exercises jurisdiction. It would explicitly supersede any conflicting mayoral executive order or memorandum of understanding entered into by New York City. Finally, it would amend several definitions in the Ad Code to account for current immigration enforcement

practices which has included the expansion of federal agencies tasked to conduct immigration enforcement. We've received ample testimony regarding the harm caused by authorizing a federal immigration office on DOC property. During ICE's previous tenure on Rikers Island, advocates and immigration service providers found immigrants surveilled, intimidated, and coerced into providing information on their immigration and nationality status during uncounseled interviews which oftentimes led to an immigrant subsequent detention and deportation. The aggressiveness and volume with which federal immigration authorities moved immigrants into detention proceedings during their time on Rikers Island was alarming. Thanks to the advocacy of immigration service providers and other dedicated professionals, impacted people, and elected officials, ICE was removed from DOC property.

With this bill, New York City will continue to protect immigrant communities from enforcement of obsolete and xenophobic federal immigration policies and the agencies that weaponize them.

Before I turn to the bill sponsor, Council Member Cabán, to make a brief statement, of

course I recommend a yes vote on this important bill of which I am a proud co-sponsor.

I want to thank the Committee Staff for their work on this hearing including Senior Legislative Counsel Nicole Catá; Senior Legislative Policy Analysis Rebecca Barilla; Principal Financial Analyst Carolina Gil; and Council Finance Assistant Director Florentine Kabore. I'd also like to thank the bill drafters, Senior Legislative Counsel Nicholas Widzowski. Finally, I would like to thank my Staff, Chief-of-Staff Edward Cerna; Deputy Chief-of-Staff Christina Bottego; Communications Director Winnie Marion; and Legislative Fellow Lily Yeung, and to everyone working in the background to make this hearing run smoothly.

And now I turn it over to Council Member Cabán.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair, for your leadership and just thank you to my Staff, especially Nomi and Jonah. I have to admit this is one of the very rare times where I feel really overwhelmed with emotion around a vote and especially the work that we are doing. I woke up today more proud than ever to be a legislator and to

be a legislator along y'all. So I am here to, I don't even think I have to urge my Colleagues because we have such broad support on this, but to support Intro. 1412, the Safer Sanctuary Act. Our sanctuary laws exist for one reason, to keep people safe. The data is clear. Sanctuary counties are safer per capita than non-sanctuary counties, and under the Trump Administration, federal agencies that usually have nothing to do with immigration enforcement are suddenly being turned into tools of fear. We have to pass the Safer Sanctuary Act to clarify and strengthen our sanctuary laws so that no one can claim confusion or loopholes, and regardless of which federal agency is being used for immigration enforcement, and that's super key. The Safer Sanctuary Act also stops ICE from setting up offices inside our jails. New Yorkers are already disappearing inside of those walls, and they cannot also become a deportation machine. We are in a terrible time. We've seen seniors beaten, pregnant mothers shackled, children torn away from their parents, including six-year-olds ripped from their father's arms, and these are kidnappings. These are acts of terror, and they are happening in our city to

1 COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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2 our neighbors. Fear and terror do not make us safe.

3 Safety comes from community, from solidarity, from

4 fighting for each other and alongside each other, and

5 as we've seen New Yorkers, proud as hell, strong,

6 defiant New Yorkers, it's an honor to be able to live

7 up to their expectations and support them with laws

8 that can do the same, and the Safer Sanctuary Act is

9 a critical tool in that fight, so thank you to all of

10 the act's co-sponsors and supporters, and you know,

11 with your votes, your power, and your voices, we're

12 going to get it passed. We will defend our neighbors.

13 We will keep our families together, and we will keep

14 us safe, so thank you again, Chair.

15 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: With that, I will now

16 call the Clerk to call the roll.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

18 Matthew DiStefano, Committee Clerk. Committee on

19 Immigration. Roll call vote on Proposed Intro. Number

20 1412-A.

21 Chair Avilés.

22 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Proudly vote aye.

23 Congratulations, Council Member Cabán.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

25 Bottcher.

1 COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION 8

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEr: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

4 Brewer.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: De La

7 Rosa.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Yes.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Hanif.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Yes.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

12 Joseph.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

15 Krishnan.

16 By a vote of 16 in the affirmative, zero

17 in the negative, and no abstentions, the item has

18 been adopted.

19 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: Thank you, and that

20 concludes this hearing. [GAVEL]

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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 29, 2025