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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 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

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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

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

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2 practices which has included the expansion of federal
3 agencies tasked to conduct immigration enforcement.

4 We've received ample testimony regarding the harm
5 caused by authorizing a federal immigration office on
6 DOC property. During ICE's previous tenure on Rikers
7 Island, advocates and immigration service providers
8 found immigrants surveilled, intimidated, and coerced
9 into providing information on their immigration and
10 nationality status during uncounseled interviews
11 which oftentimes led to an immigrant subsequent
12 detention and deportation. The aggressiveness and
13 volume with which federal immigration authorities
14 moved immigrants into detention proceedings during
15 their time on Rikers Island was alarming. Thanks to
16 the advocacy of immigration service providers and
17 other dedicated professionals, impacted people, and
18 elected officials, ICE was removed from DOC property.

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

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

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

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

17 And now I turn it over to Council Member
18 Cabán.

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

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

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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.

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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