New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Legislative Service Number:

- LS No. 18218

Prime Sponsor:

- Council Member Shahana Hanif

Bill Title:

- A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring agency training and the publication of implementation plans concerning immigration enforcement and cooperation with non-local law enforcement agencies

Submitted by:

- Council Member Shahana Hanif

Justification

In 2017, Local Law 228 passed in the City Council which limited the City's cooperation with immigration enforcement. In 2018, the Mayor issued guidance for agency implementation of the law. The guidance reinforced the clear line that "the City is committed to ensuring that immigrant New Yorkers have confidence in interacting with their local government in order to protect and promote public safety for all." However, although it is recommended that agencies develop formal policies or protocols, the only requirement is that agency heads must make employees aware and instruct them to decline to comply with any request from a federal immigration enforcement agency. However, city agencies continue to violate the law resulting in grave harm to immigrants. However, despite escalating examples there has been no requirement to date that all city agencies implement clear, concrete and detailed policy and protocol around compliance with the law. The lack of guidance to implement this local law creates mistrust in city agencies by long-time New Yorkers and creates additional confusion for newly arrived immigrants seeking support and resources in our city. This bill would strengthen § 10-178 (aka Local Law 228) by requiring all city agencies develop detailed, concrete, written policies and protocol to ensure compliance with this critical law.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.