

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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November 27, 2018  
Start: 10:39 a.m.  
Recess: 10:48 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: DEBORAH L. ROSE  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Justin L. Brannan  
Margaret S. Chin  
Mathieu Eugene  
Andy L. King

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

2 [sound check] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Good morning, good  
4 morning and thank you for coming. My name is Debi  
5 Rose, and I'm the Chair of the Committee on Youth  
6 Services, and we are also joined by Council Members  
7 Brannan and Eugene. Today we will be voting on  
8 Proposed Intro No. 480-A sponsored by Council Member  
9 Daniel Dromm. This Proposed Intro would require the  
10 Department of Youth and Community Development or DYCD  
11 to create a runaway and homeless youth immigration  
12 information plan. We previously conducted a hearing  
13 on this piece of legislation on September 17, 2018 as  
14 part of our joint oversight hearing with the  
15 Immigration Committee on LGBTQ immigrant youth.  
16 After receiving valuable feedback from those that  
17 testified, we have amended this bill into a piece of  
18 legislation that I think that we can all agree will  
19 help runaway and homeless youth or RHY who are  
20 immigrants. It's tough to be a young person these  
21 days. It's even tougher to be a young person who  
22 identifies as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or  
23 questioning. They sometimes face rejection by their  
24 communities, families and friends. Sadly, some wind  
25 up on the streets. That is why so many LGBTQ youth

2 are disproportionately represented among the city's  
3 runaway and homeless youth population. We are  
4 thankful to Speaker Johnson for making runaway and  
5 homeless youth a priority so that the city can  
6 provide more shelter, services and support for these  
7 youngsters, but there is one subset of our youth  
8 population that we do not spend enough time talking  
9 about. They are the topic of this bill that we are  
10 voting on today. They are our runaway and homeless  
11 youth--runaway and homeless immigrant youth. As I  
12 mentioned it is rough being a young person, but when  
13 you are also an immigrant, your life challenges can  
14 increase exponentially especially if you are  
15 undocumented. It is no secret that anti-immigrant  
16 wave has infected parts of the country including even  
17 our own federal government, but we are New Yorkers  
18 and we are proud that over one-third of our city  
19 population was born outside of the United States.  
20 The city supports these New Yorkers through courses  
21 such as English as a Second Language, and provides  
22 assistance in assessing social and community  
23 services. But nearly one-third of the runaway and  
24 homeless youth are victims of sexual exploitation or  
25 engage in sex work as their only means of income to

2 survive for undocumented runaway and homeless youth  
3 who have no path toward a Green Card or legal work  
4 authorization. Sex work sometimes become their only  
5 career choice and that is unacceptable. Proposed  
6 Intro No. 480-A would require the Department of Youth  
7 and Community Development to create runaway and  
8 homeless youth immigration information plan for RHY  
9 in contact with the department funded programs and  
10 services. This plan would provide runaway and  
11 homeless youth with information about resources,  
12 services and referrals related to immigrant-  
13 immigration relief and benefits including legal  
14 services. This information would potentially help  
15 runaway and homeless youth immigrants obtain  
16 permanency status in the United States and give them  
17 hope that they can live their lives free of  
18 persecution, exploitation and victimization. As  
19 such, Proposed Intro 480-A represents a great step  
20 towards helping runaway and homeless youth immigrants  
21 obtain the valuable services and resources they need.  
22 So, I wholeheartedly urge my colleagues to vote yes  
23 on this important piece of legislation, and we'll now  
24 call the roll.

2 CLERK: Matthew Distefano Committee

3 Clerk, Committee on Youth Services. Roll call vote on  
4 Proposed Intro No 480-A. Chair rose.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Eugene.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Chin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to  
10 explain my vote.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair  
13 and I wanted to thank you for your leadership on  
14 this, and also Council Member Dromm. You know, I was  
15 really happy that we had the opportunity to visit  
16 Covenant House last month, and I think speaking with  
17 those youth really made me realize how important it  
18 is for them to have information and know about the  
19 resources that are available to them, and that is so  
20 important. That's why with this legislation that we  
21 will also, you know, take care of our immigrant youth  
22 who often times do not have the support that they  
23 need. So, I proudly vote aye, and please add me on  
24 as a co-sponsor to the bill. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, Council  
3 Member Chin, and thank you for those remarks. Our  
4 visit to Covenant House was very elucidating and—and  
5 just reinforced the need for not only resources, but  
6 information to be distributed about the resources  
7 that are provided. So, thank you, and so, we will  
8 leave the vote open for about--

9 CLERK: I have one—

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh.

11 CLERK: Council Member Brannan.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'm sorry.

13 CLERK: Brannan.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Permission to  
15 explain my vote

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, I'm sorry, Council  
17 Member.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: [laughs] It's  
19 okay. Permission to explain my vote?

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes, you may.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Okay. Thank  
22 you, Chair Rose. Yeah, one—one of the reasons why I—I  
23 really wanted to be on this committee was for the  
24 work that is done for runaway and homeless youth.

2 So, this is a very important bill as are all bills  
3 that-that touch this space, and I proudly vote aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, Council  
5 Member.

6 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the  
7 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstention, the  
8 bill has been adopted.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. [background  
10 comments/pause] Okay. So, could you just repeat  
11 the—the count, the vote?

12 CLERK: Sure. 4 in the affirmative, 0 in  
13 the negative and no abstentions.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. This vote is  
15 now closed, and this hearing is adjourned. [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 21, 2018