

The New York City Council

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: Res 0235- Version: * Name: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

2024 to quickly clear the backlog of I-765 applications for

employment authorization.

Type: Resolution Status: Committee

In control: Committee on Immigration

On agenda: 3/7/2024

Enactment date: Enactment #:

Title: Resolution calling on United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to quickly clear the backlog

of I-765 applications for employment authorization.

Sponsors: Gale A. Brewer, Farah N. Louis, Shahana K. Hanif, Crystal Hudson, Sandra Ung, Pierina Ana

Sanchez, Jennifer Gutiérrez

Indexes:

Attachments: 1. Res. No. 235, 2. March 7, 2024 - Stated Meeting Agenda, 3. Hearing Transcript - Stated Meeting 3-

7-24

| Date | Ver. | Action By | Action | Result |
|----------|------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 3/7/2024 | * | City Council | Introduced by Council | |
| 3/7/2024 | * | City Council | Referred to Comm by Council | |

Res. No. 235

Resolution calling on United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to quickly clear the backlog of I-765 applications for employment authorization.

By Council Members Brewer, Louis, Hanif, Hudson, Ung, Sanchez and Gutierrez

Whereas, Asylum seekers are arriving in sanctuary cities like New York in increasing numbers; and

Whereas, Individuals seeking asylum in the United States are required to obtain an employment authorization document (I-766) in order to work in the United States while their asylum claim is pending; and

Whereas, in order to obtain an I-766 employment authorization, asylum seekers must file an application for employment authorization (I-765); and

Whereas, Asylum seekers are ready and able to work and contribute to New York City's economy; and

Whereas, The United States Citizen and Immigration Service, pursuant to its own rules, is required to process employment authorization documents for asylum seekers within 30 days; and

Whereas, the COVID pandemic, lack of funding, and staffing vacancies at the United States Citizenship

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and Immigration Service have caused processing delays for 1-765 applications; and

Whereas, According to the USCIS's own data, processing times for I-765 applications in fiscal year 2002 took, on average, between 4.1 and 6.9 months depending on the basis for filing; and

Whereas, The extended processing times for I-765 applications have led to a large backlog of applications; and

Whereas, According to testimony given by the USCIS Director at an Congressional hearing in April 2022 there were 1.5 million pending work authorization applications; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York Calls on the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services quickly clear the backlog of I-765 applications for employment authorization.

Session 13 LS #10483/10495 3/5/24

Session12 LS #10483/10495 10/21/22 9:00 a.m. EHC