

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

***VOTE**

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Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Start: 11:33 A.M.

Recess: 11:43 A.M.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - 8th Floor - Hearing
Room 2

B E F O R E: Hon. Elsie Encarnación, Chair,

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés

Gale A. Brewer

Kamillah Hanks

Rita C. Joseph

Other Council Members Attending: Cabán

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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2 SERGEANT LEVY: Testing, testing, this is
3 a microphone test for the New York City Council
4 Committee on Immigration vote.

5 Today's date is January 28, 2026. We are
6 currently located in Hearing Room 2 - 250 Broadway.
7 This is being recorded by Sergeant Ben Levy.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, good
9 morning, welcome to the New York City Council vote
10 for the Committee on Immigration.

11 At this time, please silence all
12 electronic devices and do not approach the dais.

13 Chair, you may begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON ENCARNACIÓN: Thank you.

15 Thank you. Good morning, everyone.

16 [GAVEL]

17 As you can see, it's my first hearing.
18 Good morning, everyone. I am Council member Elsie
19 Encarnación, Chair of the Committee on Immigration. I
20 want to first thank Speaker Julie Menin for trusting
21 me with chairing this crucial committee and to my
22 colleagues for serving on the committee alongside me
23 and joining us here today.

24 I would also like to take a moment to
25 thank Council Member Avilés for her leadership. You

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2 have modeled what integrity looks like in leadership,
3 what compassion and passion look like in leadership,
4 and I am glad to still be sharing this committee with
5 you.

6 Today, the Committee is considering
7 whether to recommend that Introduction Number 1412-A
8 of 2025 be repassed, notwithstanding the objections
9 of former Mayor Eric Adams, and whether to recommend
10 that the former mayor's Veto Message M 0017-2026 be
11 filed.

12 Introduction Number 1412-A, sponsored by
13 Council Member Tiffany Cabán, in relation to
14 redefining terms concerning immigration enforcement
15 to account for current enforcement practices, and
16 prohibiting the maintenance of an office or quarters
17 on property under the jurisdiction of the Department
18 of Correction by federal immigration authorities.

19 In 2014, the Council passed Local Law 58,
20 which prohibits the US Immigration and Customs
21 Enforcement (ICE) from maintaining an office on
22 Rikers Island to enforce civil immigration law.

23 Local Law 58, however, provides that the
24 mayor may, by executive order, authorize federal
25 immigration authorities to maintain an office or

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2 quarters on property under the jurisdiction of DOC
3 for purposes unrelated to the enforcement of civil
4 immigration laws.

5 On April 8th, 2025, then First Deputy
6 Mayor Randy Mastro signed an executive order to allow
7 ICE to maintain an office on Rikers Island. This
8 executive order came on the heels of a February 2025
9 meeting between former Mayor Adams and the Trump
10 Administration's 'Border Czar' Tom Homan.

11 Following that meeting, Adams promised to
12 implement the executive order that would enable ICE
13 agents to operate on Rikers Island. After the Council
14 filed the lawsuit, a New York State Supreme Court
15 judge invalidated the executive order due to the
16 "impermissible appearance of a conflict of interest".

17 Introduction Number 1142-A would bar
18 federal immigration authorities from maintaining
19 offices or quarters, for any purpose, on land over
20 which the New York City Department of Correction
21 (DOC) exercises jurisdiction. It would explicitly
22 supersede any conflicting mayoral executive order or
23 memorandum of understanding entered into by New York
24 City. Finally, it would amend several definitions in
25 the Administrative Code to account for current

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2 immigration enforcement practices, which have
3 included the expansion of federal agencies tasked
4 with conducting immigration enforcement.

5 The Committee has received ample
6 testimony regarding the harm caused by authorizing a
7 federal immigration office on DOC property based on
8 ICE's previous tenure on Rikers Island. The
9 aggression and the volume with which federal
10 immigration authorities moved immigrants into
11 deportation proceedings during their time on Rikers
12 Island were alarming. With this bill, New York City
13 will continue to protect immigrant communities from
14 the enforcement of obsolete and xenophobic federal
15 immigration policies and the agencies that weaponize
16 them.

17 The former mayor's cursory Veto Message
18 is silent on the robust legislative history. It also
19 fails to explain why any hypothetical partnerships
20 with federal agencies would have to be facilitated by
21 federal immigration authorities maintaining an office
22 or quarters on land under DOC jurisdiction.

23 Accordingly, the Council will step in to
24 do what the former mayor repeatedly refused to do:
25 stand alongside New York's immigrant communities and

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2 strengthen New York City sanctuary-related local
3 laws.

4 Before I turn to the bill's sponsor,
5 Council Member Cabán, to make a brief statement, I
6 would like to thank the committee staff for their
7 work on this hearing: Nicole Catá, Senior Legislative
8 Counsel; Rebecca Barilla, Senior Legislative Policy
9 Analyst; Carolina Gil, Principal Financial Analyst;
10 Navdeep Bains, Principal Financial Analyst; and
11 Florentine Kabore, Assistant Director.

12 Finally, I would like to thank my staff:
13 Stephanie Herrera, Deputy Chief of Staff; Adam Newman
14 Bernstein, Legislative/Communications Director; and
15 Winnie Moraa (phonetic), Legislative Fellow, and
16 everyone who works behind the scenes to make this
17 hearing run smoothly, including our Sergeant at Arms.

18 I also want just to take a moment to
19 recognize Council Member Avilés for joining us,
20 Council Member Brewer, Council Member Hanks, and
21 Council Member Cabán.

22 And now it's your turn.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you, Chair,
24 thank you, former Chair. I appreciate both of your
25 leadership and support.

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2 As the lead sponsor of Introduction
3 1412, the Safer Sanctuary Act, I would like to urge
4 my colleagues to vote to override former Mayor Eric
5 Adams' veto. We are at a crossroads in the history of
6 our country, and the horrifying events ongoing in
7 Minneapolis showed us just how far the Trump
8 Administration is willing to go to assault and
9 terrorize our communities.

10 The Safer Sanctuary Act was designed
11 precisely to help prevent New York City from becoming
12 a place where federal immigration authorities are
13 able to attack families and civil liberties with
14 impunity. And this legislation introduces critical
15 expansions to our existing sanctuary city framework.
16 It extends New York's sanctuary city limitations on
17 local cooperation with federal immigration
18 enforcement to include all agencies and laws being
19 used by the Trump Administration to threaten our
20 communities. This means that regardless of which
21 agency is enacting the horrific Trump/Vance agenda,
22 be it the FBI, the IRS, the United States Marshals,
23 or DHS, our communities are covered by our sanctuary
24 policies. Second, it bars any future mayor from
25 reestablishing an ICE office in our jails, as former

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2 Mayor Eric Adams tried to do last year. These are
3 critical measures to protect our communities from an
4 increasingly violent and authoritarian federal
5 government, and overriding this veto on Thursday will
6 demonstrate that the City Council stands with the
7 people of New York City. It will demonstrate that as
8 a body, we are striving to meet the moment. And we
9 must state clearly that we're not going to allow our
10 streets, our schools, our hospitals, and public
11 spaces to become arenas for the federal government to
12 wage war on our people. We must firmly reject
13 policies that bring terror and division to our
14 neighborhoods and protect the civil rights of all who
15 call this city home. And in the words of the New York
16 baller and living legend, Breanna Stewart, and
17 millions of fellow New Yorkers, abolish ICE. Thank
18 you, Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON ENCARNACIÓN: Thank you,
20 Council Member. Anyone else who would like to speak
21 on this bill?

22 Committee Members will now take a vote on
23 the following items: Shall we accept and file the
24 former mayor's veto message M 0017-2026, and shall we
25 pass Introduction 1412-A of 2025, the former mayor's

2 veto message notwithstanding? I recommend a "yes"
3 vote, and ask the Clerk to call the roll.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William
5 Martin, Committee Clerk; roll call vote Committee on
6 Immigration; both items are coupled.

7 Chair Encarnación?

8 CHAIRPERSON ENCARNACIÓN: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: I was appreciating
11 your pronunciation of the Chair's name. Encarnación.
12 Well done.

13 I proudly vote aye to overturn the
14 mayor's--I'm sorry, the former, corrupt mayor's veto.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye. And I
17 still like Randy Mastro, but I am the only one. Thank
18 you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye. And I
21 like Randy Mastro as well.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 5 in the
25 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,

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2 Introduction 1412-A has been readopted by the
3 Committee, and M 17 has been approved to be filed by
4 the Committee.

5 Madam Chair, that is a full committee.

6 CHAIRPERSON ENCARNACIÓN: Thank you,
7 Billy. This meeting is adjourned. There we go.

8 [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 no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date February 18, 2026