



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

Office of
Immigrant Affairs

Nisha Agarwal
Commissioner

October 21, 2016

Testimony of Commissioner Nisha Agarwal

NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Before a hearing of the New York City Council Committee on Immigration:

“Oversight—Coordinating Multi-agency Support for Immigrant Families”



**Office of
Immigrant Affairs**
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Thank you to Chair Menchaca and the members of the Committee on Immigration. My name is Nisha Agarwal, and I am the Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

The de Blasio Administration strives to be inclusive of all New Yorkers, regardless of their immigration status. We recognize that being undocumented can pose significant barriers for New Yorkers in accessing government services and resources to support the health, safety, and welfare of all.

Importantly, the well-being of our undocumented neighbors is inextricably bound up with the well-being of New Yorkers who are permanent residents and U.S. citizens. Undocumented New Yorkers are not separate and apart from the rest of the city's population. To the contrary, mixed-status families are very common. Our internal estimates show that nearly 16% of children in New York City, or one in six children, live in a family that contains at least one undocumented immigrant.

IMMIGRANT INCLUSION ACROSS CITY AGENCIES

Serving mixed-status families effectively often requires the involvement of multiple agencies because of the different needs and opportunities of family members with varying immigration statuses. To ensure that our sister agencies can effectively respond to these needs, MOIA works to embed principles and practices of immigrant inclusion across City government in all areas—from outreach and communications to regulatory actions to the design of new and existing programs.

This effort builds on our long-standing work with agencies consulting on language access and expands its scope to develop strategies to ensure that City government is accessible and inclusive of immigrant New Yorkers. As an example, MOIA recently expanded the role of our language access director position to become our Executive Director of Immigrant Inclusion, to lead this effort. Under her leadership, we will continue our work with agencies to develop immigrant inclusion strategies, including identifying areas beyond language that create barriers for immigrants to avail themselves of city services; identifying tools and resources agencies need to develop and implement immigrant inclusion strategies; providing technical assistance to agencies; and sharing successful immigrant inclusion strategies across agencies. We will also continue to help agencies with language access, which is a key component of immigrant inclusion. Throughout our work across City government, we focus on methods to ensure that all New York City residents can get the help they need, even if they are undocumented or if their family members are undocumented.

SERVING IMMIGRANTS AND MIXED-STATUS FAMILIES

Interagency collaboration to effectively serve New York City immigrants is not new for the Administration. MOIA and our sister agencies have worked together closely on a number of programs and services, with considerable success. Through collaborations like the IDNYC program and others, MOIA has identified a number of best practices that inform our efforts to serve diverse immigrant populations, including immigrants in mixed-status families. I am pleased to share some of these best practices with you today.

1. Partner early with relevant agencies, community leaders, and community-based organizations

City agencies' effectiveness in serving immigrant families is enhanced by identifying the right partners within government and in the community and collaborating with them. Such partnerships help inform policy decisions and facilitate stakeholder engagement and buy-in. Importantly, these partnerships also help build bridges and strengthen ties between local government and immigrant communities. For example, in the Administration's implementation of the IDNYC program, we benefited immeasurably from working closely with the Council and a coalition of immigrant-rights groups and other advocacy and service organizations. These partners consulted on key aspects of the program, from developing a successful outreach strategy to card design. Similarly, the success of the IDNYC program is also attributable to our partnerships with our sister agencies, with important contributions from the NYPD, the Human Resources Administration, NYC Health + Hospitals, the Department of Youth and Community Development, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Probation, and many more.

2. Leverage existing resources and trusted relationships to reach immigrants

Building on the above, reaching New York's large and diverse immigrant population requires identifying existing systems and opportunities and leveraging these to deliver services. This helps us avoid re-inventing the wheel. In addition, immigrants in mixed-status families can be among the City's most difficult-to-reach populations, owing in large part to the longstanding perception, caused by our broken federal immigration system, that it is dangerous for them to seek help from government. Accordingly, it is imperative to make use of existing effective routes for disseminating information and making contact.

The Administration used this strategy with the interagency task force established by MOIA in 2014 to address the needs of unaccompanied minors coming to New York City from Central America and the needs of their families. One of the primary outcomes of that task force's work was the first-ever placement of City staff at the federal Immigration Court—which all newly arriving unaccompanied minors must pass through—to connect these young people to school



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enrollment, access to health care, and more services provided by DOE, DOHMH, ACS, and other agencies.

We have taken a similar approach with our ActionNYC immigration legal services program, which works in trusted sites within the community to connect immigrants to legal services. One set of ActionNYC sites is through DOE's Community Schools, which are public schools paired with a community-based organization to provide support and connections to social services, and therefore are ideal partners for connecting immigrant students and immigrant families with legal services. Our re-launched NYCitizenship program also leverages community-based sites by locating services at public library branches in immigrant-dense neighborhoods throughout the City. In addition, NYCitizenship partners with HRA to reach the agency's significant roster of immigrant clients who are eligible for naturalization and could access additional benefits upon becoming U.S. citizens.

3. Achieve efficiency to reach scale

To ensure that services can be delivered as broadly as possible, we have seen success with programs that offer flexible levels of engagement with immigrants and mixed-status families. Certain agency clients may require greater direct intervention than others, and individuals' and families' needs may change over time. Being able to provide varying levels of service based on the needs of an individual allows for greater efficiency and scale.

In our ActionNYC legal services program, for example, community navigators provide intake, screening, and coordination services, under the supervision of an immigration attorney. Navigators are not attorneys, but have in-depth training and expertise in service delivery so they can help with preparation of documents and coordination of referrals. Immigration attorneys, under this model, supervise navigators and perform the more intensive legal work.

In addition, we have seen success with our publication of the Document Collection Guide, co-produced with the New York Immigration Coalition, because it was designed to be flexible for use independently by immigrants or in conjunction with a navigator or attorney.

Our partner agencies have seen success with this model as well. In the ActionHealthNYC program, immigrant patients receive care coordination services appropriate to their level of need. And in the recently released RFP for comprehensive services for immigrant families, DYCD has identified a need for a high-touch model of case management to complement the existing services available to immigrants in New York City.

4. Tailor outreach and marketing in a linguistically and culturally competent manner

In addition to interagency referral mechanisms and formal partnerships, agencies are increasingly employing targeted, data-driven techniques to reach immigrants through outreach and through the media. MOIA has worked with our partners, including those in the Council, to develop a directory to assist agencies to expand their purchases of ethnic and community media advertising. These ad buys have consistently risen every year under the de Blasio Administration, and we have seen major successes in campaigns using ethnic media, such as our recent campaign to educate DACA recipients about Medicaid eligibility. MOIA has also coordinated with other agencies to inform the targeting strategy and messaging in campaigns to bring services to immigrant families, such as those related to SNAP and emergency food assistance, health insurance enrollment, and more.

AREAS OF ONGOING COORDINATION

We are applying these best practices for serving immigrants and immigrant families to our continuing work in priority areas for MOIA and the Administration as a whole. Recent examples have included a partnership between HRA and the Department of Small Business Services to embed public assistance enrollment support within Workforce1 centers in order to reach clients, including immigrants, who may be eligible but unenrolled. DYCD is also working with other agencies to explore opportunities to connect immigrants and other clients to necessary services, such as helping individuals receiving HRA benefits to access adult literacy services and identifying Beacon or Cornerstone community centers that may be able to house a DOE adult education program.

Of particular relevance for mixed-status families is our ongoing work in adult literacy programming and immigration legal services.

In the field of adult literacy, we understand the need for improved coordination across the diverse providers that work in this area. We are committed to working with the providers, City agencies, CUNY, and the Council to develop a system for literacy services that more effectively meets the needs of New York City's adult learners and does so at scale, relying on the best practices and principles I have described today. We will adopt and adapt the lessons of our successes, such as the establishment of partnerships and leveraging of existing resources, to ensure that the City's literacy planning has a strong foundation based in agencies' and providers' years of expertise and roots in the community.

As part of our vision for adult literacy, we see the We Are New York (WANY) program as a crucial component of the broader literacy initiative by providing volunteer-led English language learning classes that supplement ESOL classes. WANY is coordinated by MOIA and includes many partnerships with a diverse range of community-based providers and City agencies,

including the Department of Education, to reach immigrants of all statuses and mixed-status families. The best practices and principles we have derived from our work hold true in WANY: WANY provides community members with another literacy option among the spectrum of varying levels of services across the city, and it has been able to reach immigrants in their communities and through trusted networks. WANY has been successful in helping English learners practice English and in empowering them to access city services, with over 2,500 individuals served through 125 classes in the past year alone, making it an important component in the City's literacy infrastructure going forward.

In immigration legal services, we are coordinating closely with HRA's new Office of Civil Justice to establish referral pathways for complex immigration cases between ActionNYC service providers and HRA Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI) service providers. This interagency effort is based on our recognition of the importance of the principles and practices I have described today, including the need to create effective partnerships and the desire to achieve efficient delivery of services by ensuring appropriate levels of services based on individual immigrants' and families' needs.

In both of these areas and others, I look forward to further work with the Council, our community partners, and our sister agencies. We all share the important goal of continuing to improve our ability to serve New York City's immigrants and mixed-status families so that all New Yorkers, regardless of their immigration status or their family members' immigration status, can grow and thrive together.



American ideals. Universal values.

TESTIMONY

Contact: Brenda Bowser Soder – BowserSoderB@humanrightsfirst.org

**TESTIMONY OF JESSICA GORELICK, SOCIAL WORKER,
HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST**

**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION**

**OVERSIGHT HEARING:
COORDINATING MULTI-AGENCY SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES**

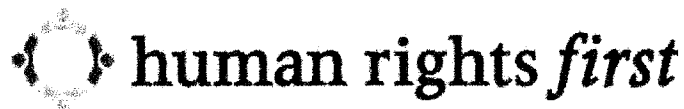
October 21, 2016

My name is Jessica Gorelick, and I am the Social Worker in the Refugee Representation Program at Human Rights First. I submit these comments on behalf of Human Rights First, and thank the City Council for the opportunity to testify.

Immigrant families face an array of unique difficulties when arriving to New York City. Those who fled from violence and trauma in their home countries to seek shelter and protection here in the United States are among the most vulnerable within the immigrant community. Housing is often the most urgent need for such families. In an ideal world, asylum seeking families would have a dedicated city shelter. Having a specific shelter for these families would allow for the development of staff training from a trauma-informed approach to support these families and their psychosocial needs. A shelter for refugee families could also provide funds for basic needs items. Additionally, families with cases in the U.S. immigration system could develop a community of support for one another in such an environment. While I do hope we are in a place to develop such a program in the near future, I make this appeal understanding that the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) is currently dealing with a homelessness crisis and understand that such a program could not happen overnight. I would like to propose some potential first steps that might help us start to address the needs of this population.

It would be a wonderful first effort, if shelter staff throughout New York City could receive training around the unique needs of asylum seeking families. This could potentially start with an effort to train supervisors through a one-day training. This could include information regarding the legal process of applying for asylum, along with the array of social services related struggles these families face and how to address them. Additionally, if shelters could provide a

Human Rights First



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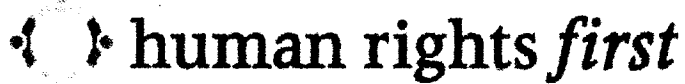
TESTIMONY

small amount of funding for these families to purchase basic needs items like food, hygiene, and cleaning supplies that would help fill some of the gaps regarding their needs.

The Mayor has made wonderful efforts to improve access to affordable housing for all New York City residents; however, access to stable housing continues to be an issue for many. According to the Coalition for the Homeless, there were 15,501 homeless families with 23,929 homeless children living in city shelters as of August 2016. There are no exact figures regarding the number of asylum seeking families in shelter in New York City. We can narratively share that at Human Rights First we typically have approximately ten families living within the shelter system at any given time. Unlike in many other parts of the country, these families are fortunate in that there are no immigration requirements for individuals to be placed in shelter.

Unfortunately, asylum seeking families find themselves homeless within their first months in New York City all too often. When families arrive, they often find temporary housing with family or friends. Many believe that they will be able to find work quickly and rent their own apartment. However, these families soon discover that they must wait months, if not far longer, to access work authorization. They are not eligible for social safety net programs like the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). They have no income and cannot help with paying rent, bills, or buying food. It is not uncommon in this high stress situation for old conflicts to reemerge as these families wear out their welcome. Many of these families have faced unspeakable trauma in their home countries and struggle with the emotional aftermath of these experiences, impacting the dynamics and environment for hosts. Additionally, there are often logistical issues when housed with friends or family. Many who have been living in New York City for years are still struggling financially and already have difficulty providing adequately for their families, let alone for those who have recently arrived. There are also issues when housed with family or friends living in apartments that do not allow for additional tenants. Many are forced to leave these homes because their presence could put those hosting them at risk for eviction. These dynamics lend and lead to homelessness for many asylum seeking families.

When asylum seeking families are placed in shelter, they are often at a loss for how to survive. These families are typically new to New York City and already overwhelmed as they are unfamiliar with the language and culture. Case managers at shelters are frequently unaware of what it means to be an asylum applicant and often refer individuals to apply for SNAP and TANF, neither of which are available to these families. They often tell them to go find a job, even though they are not eligible to work. They are often unaware of the fact that individuals with pending asylum applications are Permanent Residents Under the Color of Law (PRUCOL)



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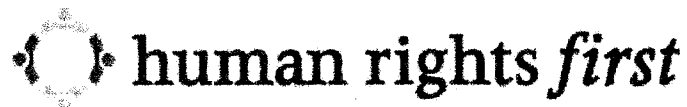
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and eligible to apply for health insurance, so they fail to inform them of the availability of that benefit. These families are frequently disoriented and unaware of their rights. They struggle with access to basic needs items and are confused on how to access educational, medical, legal, and mental health services for which they are eligible. Many shelters do not have adequate cooking facilities and parents are unable to make children the food to which they are accustomed, something that can help create a sense of safety and consistency for children in such an unstable environment. They are not provided with hygiene items or cleaning supplies to maintain their living quarters. Shelter staff is often unsure of how to support asylum seeking families because they are unaware of what it means to be an asylum seeker.

Within the past year, Human Rights First, the Feerick Center for Social Justice, and Safe Passage Project saw wonderful improvements through collaboration with staff from Prevention Assistance and Temporary Housing (PATH), DHS, and the Human Resources Administration (HRA). We worked to discuss the unique needs of asylum seeking families and frequent roadblocks they face when seeking shelter through PATH. We began to develop a protocol for these families and have been able to resolve eligibility issues for a number of families through collaboration with PATH's Legal Unit. It has been fantastic to see the interest that city agencies have in supporting asylum seeking families and helping them in their time of need.

Considering the wonderful improvements we saw in our collaborations with PATH, DHS, and HRA, we believe that these preliminary steps toward our long term goal of an asylum seeking family specific shelter would make a great difference for our clients facing homelessness right now. After being trained, shelter staff would understand the legal processes these families are facing. They could become supportive allies to our clients and help them access health insurance when qualified, along with developing a referral list of resources for which these individuals are eligible. Parents could learn about educational protections like the McKinney Vento Act to make sure their children are enrolled in school. They can also receive support to ensure they have access to healthy foods and are properly clothed for the weather – improving their ability to create a safe and stable environment for their children in a chaotic situation. This awareness would also help empower clients who often frightened and confused as they adapt to their new lives in New York City. If shelter staff were provided proper training around these needs and given some funding for basic needs items for clients, they would be empowered to provide adequate support to these families as they acculturate. When shelter staff become aware of the rights of asylum seeking families, the individuals living within those shelters are more likely to become aware of their rights too.

The New York City Council has made incredible efforts to offer immigration legal support to Unaccompanied Minors and has shown great interest in supporting families who are fleeing



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their home countries and seeking a safe haven here in New York City. Through coordinating efforts with DHS and shelters within the city's system, we can help these families have a smoother transition to adapting to life in New York City. This will ultimately be beneficial to the larger community as these families will become more capable of contributing to and improving their communities, ultimately strengthening the fabric of our city of immigrants.

We are grateful to the New York City Council and its Committee on Immigration for the opportunity to testify about working to coordinate multi-agency support for immigrant and asylum seeking families and we look forward to further discussion of this important topic. Thank you.



Asian American Federation

STATEMENT SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

March 28, 2016

Oversight Hearing - Coordinating Multi-Agency Support for Immigrant Families

Thank you to Chairperson Menchaca and the Committee on Immigration for convening this hearing. I am Howard Shih, research and policy director of the Asian American Federation. The Federation's mission is to raise the influence and well-being of the pan-Asian American community through research, policy advocacy, public awareness, and organizational development. Established in 1989, the Federation is a pan-Asian nonprofit organization representing a network of nearly 60 community service agencies in the Northeast. These agencies work in the fields of health & human services, education, economic development, civic participation, and social justice.

The Asian population continues to be the fastest-growing group in New York City, averaging an annual growth of 2.9% from 2010 to 2015, a rate that outpaces the Hispanic population, which only grew at a rate of 1.2% in that same time period. Asians now represent 10 percent or more of residents in 26 out of 51 Council Districts. Immigrants make up 7 in 10 Asians in the city. They are coming for economic opportunities or refuge from persecution and face many challenges in integrating into their new country. For instance, by the City's own estimates from the Center for Economic Opportunity, more one in four Asians live in poverty in New York City, a higher poverty rate than that of Blacks and Hispanics. The City's poverty estimates take into account the impact of income and payroll taxes, nutritional and housing assistance and medical costs. Despite this poverty, Asian households are less likely to receive assistance. Only 31 percent of Asians in households that meet the income requirements for SNAP actually receive them, compared to 52 percent of all residents in potentially eligible households.

Despite the rapid growth in the Asian community and the persistent demand for culturally competent services, only 1.4 percent of contract dollars from city social service agencies went to programs run by Asian-led community organizations or programs aimed at serving mostly Asian clientele.

We applaud the Council's efforts to both address the growing needs of the community by strengthening community organizations through efforts such as the Communities of Color Non-Profit Stabilization Fund and seeking to help the city's immigrant families by connect the city's various services together. Our member agencies have seen many families in need come through their doors for a specific need and only to discover through interacting with agency staff that there are many programs and benefits available to help them through tough times. As the City Council considers the various options available to better coordinate multiagency support for immigrant families, we ask the Council to consider these factors in three broad categories.

First, improve communications and build networks

1. A significant knowledge and communications gap exists between the nonprofit community, in particular the small non-profit community organizations and city agencies. Not all the nonprofits know all the connections between city agencies and what each agency has the capacity to do. The non-profit community needs extensive training and investment in their staff to understand any process and policy changes coming from the city agencies.

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2. The city agencies lack a mechanism to share information about residents in need. If someone need food stamps, ACS services, and housing, they have to go to each agency separately and often have to share the same information and documentation over and over again. Is there the possibility of a 'case management' system for the agencies where information and documentation is entered once and shared across agencies, similar to what non-profits have in HHS Accelerator and VENDEX?

Second, ensure the availability of cultural and language expertise:

1. Before we are able to connect the services together, we need commitment that the agencies have the proper language and cultural expertise in place to help immigrants once they are in the door.
2. Nonprofits will continue to serve as the primary resource for information and assistance, particularly in the Asian immigrant community. We need a clear delineation of the role of nonprofits and the city agencies. What is in place to ensure that the role/work of the nonprofits are NOT usurped by the agencies? Ultimately, whatever happens or does not happen, clients will always come back to the nonprofits for assistance, explanations and assurances, because of the trust and history the nonprofits have built up in their communities.
3. What is the potential for City Council to invest in various 'one stop shop' nonprofits throughout the city to serve in-language and expand their capacity to serve new immigrants?
4. Finally, there still needs to be some consideration of the city's language access policy. The current mandate to serve the top six languages the city is outdated. There are neighborhoods in New York City where a particular Asian language may be used by the majority of residents but because that language isn't one of the top six languages, there will never be proper translation of documents and language services. Can we reshuffle the language access mandate deck to do better by the ever-changing city and the needs, esp. in light of the fact that the demographics of the city is changing?

Finally, build a mechanism for oversight and accountability

1. While the directors of the agencies are responsive and act on recommendations from advocates, there is no mechanism to ensure meaningful change in bureaucratic culture and the policy changes don't seem to trickle down to the front line staff level. For example, despite new training re-emphasizing the language access policies of HRA, advocates in the field still come across incidents where clients face delays in getting interpretive services. Our worry is that any top-down initiatives would fade away as leaders come and go.
2. What's the mechanism for oversight/accountability, and who will oversee this connection? Ultimately, we need someone/some agency to take the leadership on this initiative because otherwise the initiative would be lost amidst all the other priorities of the agencies.



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**Testimony of Sanctuary for Families
Before the New York City Council, Committee on Immigration
Chair, Council Member Carlos Menchaca
October 21, 2016**

Good morning. My name is Joy Ziegeweid, and I am a staff attorney with Sanctuary for Families' Immigration Intervention Project, the nation's largest immigration legal practice for domestic violence and trafficking victims. Our thanks to Council Member Menchaca and the Committee on Immigration for the opportunity to testify today. We appreciate New York City's deep commitment to protecting our community's most disenfranchised neighbors: immigrant abuse victims and their families. Hearings like this are further evidence that the City Council is working *proactively* to ensure that the complex needs of immigrant families are met.

We are particularly grateful to the City Council for its robust, multifaceted support of Sanctuary's holistic services to immigrant and mixed status families via several Council Initiatives. Through this generous support, Sanctuary provides high-quality legal services in all relevant practice areas, as well as crisis intervention, trauma-informed counseling, shelter, job training, and children's programs in more than 30 languages. Last year, Sanctuary's services to some 17,000 adult abuse victims and children included over 70% immigrant families, hailing from more than 140 countries. With a holistic service portfolio reaching many thousands of immigrant families annually, we can strongly attest to the critical importance of comprehensive support to help these families navigate the complex, often bewildering array of service providers and City agencies with which they must interact.

Sanctuary is committed to a holistic service model that puts all the pieces together for immigrant families—both our in-house services and assistance from external providers and government agencies. At Sanctuary, these customized combinations of services may include immigration legal assistance, service-sector job training, trauma-informed counseling in multiple languages, shelter placement, and public benefits advocacy. Services are available in a single location, with on-site childcare available for our many clients with dependent children.

Beyond these core services, active case management is essential for immigrant clients unfamiliar with American social welfare, criminal justice, child welfare, educational and other relevant systems—and lacking information about the services available to them. In addition, their ability to fully access services is often hindered by fear of deportation or separation from their children. Having to navigate around this resource-rich but often-overwhelming City to get from one service provider or City agency to another only compounds the challenges they face in having their needs met. These barriers greatly increase the chances that all but the most tenacious will slip between the cracks.

In alignment with Sanctuary's holistic model—a lifeline for immigrant clients—Sanctuary is a key partner in the New York City Family Justice Centers, one of more than 20 service providers and government agencies co-located at these “one-stop-shops” for abuse survivors, now located at the District Attorney's Offices in all five boroughs. In addition to our onsite services, Sanctuary's staff make connections and coordinate with the array of services immigrant families may need on their often long and trying journeys to independence and freedom from violence.

Sanctuary's commitment to comprehensive services and our extensive collaboration with other service providers and government agencies enhances the strength, health, and resilience of immigrant families, especially those headed by a single parent. We are Sanctuary for FAMILIES! We know that results-focused, comprehensive, and coordinated services lead to lasting transformations for the immigrant families we see. Empowering the entire family unit helps break the cycle of violence—something not easily captured in data but the singularly important fruit of our collective efforts.

I have seen that transformation in Theresa, a woman from Trinidad whom I represent. Theresa was the victim of horrific physical and sexual violence at the hands of her partner, who also threatened her with deportation and separation from her three children, all U.S. citizens. She was too afraid to seek help until after an especially brutal rape. Traumatized and homeless, Theresa was fortunately referred by the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office to the Family Justice Center, where her FJC case manager applied for a NYCHA priority placement and Sanctuary began to work with her family. Sanctuary children's counselors at the FJC provided much-needed counseling to her young children, who had witnessed

the violence against their mother. Sanctuary also prepared a petition for U nonimmigrant status for Theresa. Without sustained case management and effective coordination with City agencies, Theresa and her children would still be vulnerable to continued abuse. Instead, they are thriving. After spending over a year in a homeless shelter, Theresa and her children now live in safe, stable NYCHA housing in Queens. Her children are doing well in school, and Theresa is now enrolled in Sanctuary's Economic Empowerment Program, which has a proven record of helping clients achieve living-wage jobs.

And then there is Dina, from Jamaica. When she fled her abuser with their two young children, beds in a domestic violence shelter were not available and they were placed in a homeless shelter. As the immigration case we filed on her behalf remained pending, shelter staff warned her on an almost weekly basis for months that she was about to be evicted. At that time, Dina was deeply engaged with Sanctuary's services, receiving legal representation, counseling, and intensive job training. Her children excelled at school. The fear of having to uproot their newfound stability significantly impacted them. Through intensive advocacy by Sanctuary, Dina and her children were able to stay, but at the price of heightened anxiety, insecurity, fear, and, for us, countless hours of precious time. A closer collaboration among City agencies and nonprofit services providers could have avoided these hardships.

Yet the lack of collaboration between City agencies is most acutely felt by our youngest clients—immigrant children without permanent immigration status. They are in our public schools, visit hospitals, and are interviewed by the Administration for Children's Services. And yet despite numerous touch points with City agencies, many are never informed of their eligibility for immigration status—and then age out of options when they turn 21. Guidance counselors tell seniors without Social Security numbers that there is nothing they can do to help. Some youth have received DACA and renewable work permits, but remain eligible for other forms of relief that would provide permanent protection from removal and eligibility for federal financial aid.

I think of José, who arrived in the United States from the Dominican Republic when he was 6 years old. His father abused his mother as well as José and his siblings. ACS began its involvement with the family in 2005, when José was 9. Over the years, there were at

least 5 police reports detailing his father's abuse. Yet José was only referred to Sanctuary by his GED program when he was 2 months shy of his 21st birthday. José and his family spent 15 years in the U.S. interacting with ACS, NYPD, and Department of Education, yet no one evaluated them for their eligibility for immigration relief. It is imperative that we change this status quo: this City can and should do better.

When families of mixed immigration status are connected to Sanctuary's comprehensive services, they are able to draw upon their strengths and build additional skills to heal from and prevent violence in the future. New York City sets a national example in its efforts to ensure that the complex, multifaceted needs of at-risk immigrant abuse victims and their families are met. Comprehensive, holistic services work—we know that. We also know that we can always do better. We welcome more expansive, thoughtfully coordinated collaborations between nonprofit organizations like Sanctuary and City agencies such as the Department of Homeless Services and the Department of Education. Stationing representatives of these agencies at the City's Family Justice Centers is just one possible remedy. Only when we *all* work together we can proudly say we truly transform lives. Thank you.

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**BROOKLYN
DEFENDER
SERVICES**

TESTIMONY OF:

**Andrea Saenz – Supervising Attorney,
New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) Team**

BROOKLYN DEFENDER SERVICES,

**Presented before
The New York City Council
Committee on Immigration
Oversight Hearing on
Coordinating Multi-Agency Support for Immigrant Families**

October 21, 2016

My name is Andrea Saenz. I am the Supervising Attorney of the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) team at Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS). BDS provides innovative, multi-disciplinary, and client-centered criminal, family, and immigration defense, as well as civil legal services, social work support and advocacy, for over 40,000 clients in Brooklyn every year. I thank the City Council Committee on Immigration, and in particular Chair Menchaca, for the opportunity to testify today about the critical role that City agencies play in supporting immigrant New Yorkers and to make recommendations on how to coordinate multi-agency support.

New York City is the nation's leader in supporting immigrant communities, in large part because of the advocacy and funding provided by the City Council. The New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) is New York City's groundbreaking, first-in-the nation program providing quality counsel to immigrant New Yorkers who are detained and facing deportation and separation from their families and communities. BDS is proud to be a NYIFUP provider, along with The Bronx Defenders and The Legal Aid Society. In its first three years, NYIFUP has shown remarkable success and served as a model for access to justice. The following numbers were provided to us from the Vera Institute of Justice based on a preliminary and ongoing analysis of NYIFUP from earlier this year.

Record of Success

- **Outcomes:** NYIFUP has obtained relief, termination, or administrative closure for 154 clients, who may now remain in the United States. NYIFUP attorneys have won more than half of their trials.
- **Clients Released from Detention:** Counting these 154 successful outcomes, NYIFUP has secured release from custody for 452 clients. Thus, 31% of NYIFUP's clients have been released from detention thus far and have been reunited with their families.
- **Ancillary Proceedings:** NYIFUP has initiated 153 ancillary proceedings— proceedings in other courts or with USCIS that are critical to obtaining successful outcomes or release from detention in the deportation proceedings.
- **Voluntary Departures:** NYIFUP has negotiated 102 voluntary departures so that individuals could avoid the onus and legal consequences of a deportation orders.
- **Families across the City:** NYIFUP has represented clients living in 49 out of 51 City Council districts.

National Model

- **Spurring Replication Across New York State:** Inspired by New York City's leadership, the New York State Assembly provided funding in FY 2015 for a small pilot program at the Batavia Immigration Court in upstate New York, which has shown great success reuniting detained immigrants with their families. In FY 2016, the State Assembly doubled this funding, expanding the reach of NYIFUP pilot programs upstate. In FY 2017, the State Legislature tripled that funding, and the upstate pilot programs are reaching a significant number of clients who would never have had counsel without the spark that we started here in the city.
- **Inspiring Efforts Across the Country:** NYIFUP has been the subject of national press and inquiry from jurisdictions across the country. In 2015, a NYIFUP-inspired universal representation program opened its doors in New Jersey, and cities including San Francisco, Chicago, and Boston have convened formal "study groups" to issue reports on access to counsel and develop programs like NYIFUP in their jurisdictions. Currently, Los Angeles is seriously considering a city-funded pilot program to follow in New York's footsteps.

Connecting Clients to City Services

NYIFUP saves lives and strengthens immigrant communities. Critical to our success are the social workers who round out our legal teams, providing emotional support and connecting our clients and their family members with necessary services. By recognizing that social workers are a necessary component to any defense team, the City ensures that NYIFUP clients and their families are in the best position to access all of the programs and services that City and non-profits provide to New Yorkers.

I am proud to say that each of the three NYIFUP provider organizations has one or two in-house social workers on their NYIFUP team, who help us plan services a client can access upon release from ICE detention, and help support clients and family members as they complete their cases and transition to more stable and productive lives in the city they call home. As a program that is administered by the Human Resources Administration, we are proud to be able to connect clients to HRA benefits and other agency services.

This summer, when the City Council increased funding for NYIFUP - for which we are extremely grateful -- I sat down with every member of the BDS NYIFUP team and asked them what type of hiring we should do to provide better services to our clients. My staff overwhelmingly said, if we

had more social work support, we could do so much more to help stabilize our client's statuses and other factors in their lives, and ensure they don't come back to immigration trouble or to the same points of crisis in their lives. We were able to expand our social work services this year, and for that I want to sincerely thank the Council. It is making a difference.

Our clients' stories demonstrate the value of social work support and the ways that the City supports our clients through important services.

Client Stories

Daniel from Jamaica

Daniel is a gay man from Jamaica who experienced severe homophobia and violence from his own family and from ordinary citizens in Jamaica, including having stones thrown at him and being chased by police. He came to the U.S. seeking asylum, but ended up in ICE detention because of a prior fraud conviction. NYIFUP staff worked very hard presenting Daniel's case, and as a result, the immigration judge agreed that he has been persecuted in Jamaica and that he faced possible torture or death if he returned based on his sexual orientation and the rampant homophobic violence we documented there. Because his single conviction barred him from asylum, he was granted an alternate form of relief, deferral of removal under the Convention Against Torture. He was released from detention after many months and began building a new life.

However, Daniel had a lot of difficulty accessing city and other services because people did not understand the status he had been granted. He initially was turned away for Medicaid and Essential Plan eligibility, and only after our NYIFUP social worker and a health insurance navigator at another organization stepped in, he was finally enrolled in the Essential Plan and will be able to access medical care. Daniel then went to apply for Safety Net assistance, but was turned away twice by an employee who believed that a person without a Social Security number was not eligible. Again, with the assistance of our social worker and a lawyer from the Legal Aid Society, we sent Daniel back a third time armed with a cover letter and documents. Daniel asserted himself and asked for a supervisor, and the supervisor agreed he was eligible and that she would re-train her staff. Daniel is now going to be able to worry less about his day to day survival and will be pursuing jobs and education programs that will help him become a productive New Yorker.

Mr. C from Mali

Mr. C is a French-speaking asylum seeker from Mali who was persecuted by his own family and community because he is gay, including being stabbed by his own father. He fled Mali and asked for asylum at the U.S. border. He was initially released on parole and changed his residence to New York, in part because he had heard New York City is a welcoming place for gay men where he could find a supportive community.

At an immigration check-in where Mr. C was not provided an interpreter, a miscommunication led to him being re-arrested and detained without bond, which was deeply traumatizing to him. Mr. C obtained a French-speaking attorney through NYIFUP who started advocating for his release. His mental health deteriorated rapidly in detention, and he attempted suicide and was hospitalized. Scared for his safety, BDS filed a habeas corpus petition in federal court and demanded his immediate release rather than his return to ICE detention, which the hospital staff were concerned would continue to affect his mental health. After two tense weeks of negotiation, Mr. C was released.

BDS's in-house social worker connected him with New York City's unique array of services and support, including a support group at Gay Men of African Descent, a GED class, and an employment program. He has referred to his NYIFUP team as his "family." He has gotten his OSHA certificate, is eager to contribute to his new hometown, and will finish his strong asylum case with his NYIFUP team by his side.

Recommendations

As our client stories show, legal service providers are well-situated to assess our clients' needs and connect them with voluntary services that will impact both the outcome of their legal case and the quality of their life. On a regular basis we connect our clients with GED classes, OSHA certification or other professional training programs, affordable housing, educational advocacy, support groups, community groups, family and individual therapy, civil legal services advocacy, assistance with family court cases, and any other issue that may arise. We have had a number of extremely positive experiences getting our clients connected to the shelter system, benefits, education, and other services and are very grateful to New York City for its resources. While our social workers are skilled at helping our clients find programs and services, they can waste significant amounts of time trying to track down the correct contact information.

We recommend that the Council work with city agencies such as HRA and MOIA to establish an immigrant families support task force that would create a formal space for representatives from city agencies and nonprofit providers to meet and discuss challenges to coordination. It would also be useful if BDS and other service providers had the names and phone numbers of agency employees who are willing to serve as agency point-people for non-profit providers. The task force could brainstorm ways to improve agency coordination and report back to the council with legislative recommendations, if necessary.

It would be especially useful if we could communicate more easily with city agencies while clients are still detained to get as much of an idea as possible of what types of services our clients would likely be eligible to apply for if they are released from detention. Our clients' bond or merits cases are often highly dependent on convincing an immigration judge that we will be able to connect them to some resources to continue their positive path upon release.

We would also welcome the opportunity to help educate city agencies about some of the more "unusual" or lesser-understood immigration statuses that our clients have and what different court and agency paperwork means. For example, NYIFUP wins many cases where the client ends up with both a removal order and a suspension of that removal order because the client faces significant danger if deported. These clients have orders of supervision, grants of withholding of removal and protection under the Convention Against Torture, and paperwork that does not look like the paperwork of people with asylum or refugee status. In addition, clients who win their cases in immigration court have paperwork that can look different than those of clients who win status before the immigration agencies. They can thus struggle to get the benefits they are eligible for. If there is any way we can help with training or provide examples of our client's statuses, paperwork, and stories, we would love to do so.

Conclusion

New York City is doing more for immigrant families than any other city in the country. NYIFUP is the perfect testament to City Council's commitment to our immigrant communities. We believe that

increased coordination between city agencies and community-based providers would be helpful in ensuring that New Yorkers are able to access the thousands of resources that are available to them. Opportunities for dialogue and communication, and even a simpler way for providers like us to have regularly updated contact information or to have point people within HRA or within other agencies would go a long way in facilitating coordination.

Of course, we also hope that you will continue to support the legal services and wrap-around services that are provided through NYIFUP, and continue to support the inclusion of social work as an integral part of our high quality legal services. I assure you that our amazing social workers have helped ensure that our clients are able to maintain stable immigration status that we fought so hard for, and to help them access support, community, healing, and a path to economic independence and contribution to this city.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. We are grateful to the Council for its continued attention to the needs of immigrant families. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions about these or other issues at (718) 254-0700 (ext. 434) or asaenz@bds.org.



**TESTIMONY OF MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK
New York City Council, Committee on Civil Rights
Hearing on the NYC Human Rights Commission
October 21, 2016**

My name is Maribel Colome and I am a literacy counselor with the Legal Department at Make the Road NY, an organization that builds power in Latino and working class communities to achieve dignity and justice through community organizing, policy innovation, education, and legal services. We are based in three immigrant communities in New York City – Jackson Heights, Queens, Bushwick, Brooklyn, and Port Richmond, Staten Island – as well as in Suffolk County in Long Island. MRNY has 19,000 dues-paying members who are primarily low-income latino immigrants.

We would like to thank the City Council and the Immigration Committee in particular for holding this hearing to address gaps in services for New York City’s immigrant populations. The City Council has been a great champion of immigrant communities and has funded and supported numerous new initiatives over the past few years to support newly arrived, as well as long-term resident, immigrants who are struggling to make ends meet, to support their families and to live in safe and secure communities. We interact with immigrants regularly who, despite the existence of excellent services they are eligible for, struggle to access these services. In many cases this struggle is due to the complicated nature of government bureaucracy, especially for someone who is new to the City and who may not have a support network or speak English. Oftentimes there are additional barriers due to mental health challenges stemming from an individual’s immigration history.

Although MRNY staff regularly engage in crucial case management services for clients and provide emotional support when able, our clients need and deserve access to trained, culturally competent and clinically sound individuals who can address both their mental health needs and support them in navigating large, bureaucratic agencies with complex enrollment procedures. **For this reason, MRNY is recommending that the City Council invest in a bold new initiative to address the mental health and case management needs of immigrant New Yorkers.**

Our organizers, lawyers, teachers and administrative staff spend innumerable hours working with immigrant community members to act as social workers on top of their full time jobs. They work with our community members to enroll their children in schools, ensure their children are receiving mandated services they are entitled to, have access to Food Stamps and other benefits or just listen while they cry or otherwise express frustration with the complex challenges that face them as they navigate new and often unwelcoming systems. Because trust is built in the context of the organizing or legal relationship, these staff members will be the ones called on to engage in this case management work: phone calls to myriad city agencies and schools, leaving messages for clients and agency staff, financial planning with clients, and providing social services referrals and engaging in the counseling that they are often not equipped to do. Our legal team does their best to refer clients to outside organizations when possible, but finding culturally competent free services is tough. More times than not, when do find available services, our clients are fearful of following up and initiating a relationship with an unknown agency.



Social workers working in legal service settings provide a critical component to a holistic defense. Social workers can play many roles and address many needs faced by our clients. Some of the most crucial include: providing additional advocacy (written or in person) in the court system, short-term/long term counseling/therapy, sit-in with attorneys for initial intakes (screening) when necessary, diagnose, treat, serve as an expert witness in court (if applicable), support clients as they navigate complex systems of public benefits and connect clients to survival resources.

For example, MRNY represents nearly one hundred unaccompanied minors; children who recently arrived in the United States from countries rampant with violence. Due to the violence and danger these children are escaping, they are at high risk for mental health issues, stemming post-migration to the United States. Many of our young clients are in dire need of mental health services in order to help them adjust to life in the U.S. and cope with past trauma. Substantial stressors for minors include post-traumatic stress from home country violence and abuse, time spent in detention centers, and immigration proceedings. Unaccompanied minors may then find themselves resettled in areas where they continue to be exposed to community violence and economic deprivation. Additionally, prior separation from parents and caregivers, in many cases prolonged, can lead to disruptions in forming secure attachments with them. Adding a social work component to this work would meet a critical need in the holistic defense of unaccompanied minors that is currently missing from our approach.

Make the Road as well offers adult literacy programs, and it is crucial for our program to have case managers to provide informal counseling and connect students to the services that they need to stay in classes, such as housing support, legal services, public benefits and health care. Case managers can also help students with transitions to higher education or other related trainings.

In the past fiscal year, 533 individuals, who represent over half of MRNY's ESOL students, received some kind of case support from me as the dedicated adult education case manager, after I delivered an initial orientation in all classes about the kind of work that I could provide. I know this support is critical in supporting student retention and in stabilizing families in the communities where we work. But what I am able to do is not enough to meet the need and the demand in our communities.

We are thrilled that the City, through other programs, has started to recognize the need for case management support in its programs. For example, MOIA's recent DACA Education initiative included funding for case management support in the proposal and for that we were grateful. We would like to see the City build on that kind of initiative and offer additional, sustained support across the board for Social Work and case management services. We hope the City will heed the call to provide the kind of comprehensive mental health and case management services that we know help to ensure that immigrant communities will thrive.

Thank you very much for your time today.

My name is Jessica Coffrin-St. Julien, and I am the Deputy Director of Masa. Masa is a non-profit organization that partners with Mexican and Latino children, youth, and families to develop strong learners and leaders who fully contribute to the broader community. Masa has over 10 years of experience working in the South Bronx immigrant community. Our programs support families with children aged 16 months old to college-age and beyond. Families primarily seek out Masa for our academic support programs; however, we support families as a whole and provide wraparound services and referrals as needed. The overwhelming majority of parents we serve are undocumented. We also support many immigrant youth, some of whom have been able to benefit from DACA or SIJ visas, while others remain undocumented.

Over the years, we have seen many families struggle to navigate the complex bureaucracy of City agencies, particularly DOE, HRA, and the municipal hospital system. We recognize the importance of inter-agency coordination and appreciate the Committee's willingness to open up a dialogue about this issue. However, we have found that the barriers families often face in accessing services tend to relate to linguistic and cultural competency – whether within or across City agencies.

Particularly at DOE schools and offices, as well as at HRA-operated benefits centers, we have seen a lack of awareness of and, frankly, a lack of patience for the linguistic diversity and varied educational backgrounds of Masa families. As a bit of context, about 26% of the families Masa served in the last year speak an indigenous language as their primary language – the most commonly represented languages are Mixteco, Nahautl, and Tlapaneco. Some families also speak Mam or Garifuna. Among parents born abroad, 17% have a second-grade education or less in their country of origin. 41% have a sixth-grade education or less. Many parents in the Masa community thus contend with limited literacy skills – so navigating City systems in Spanish is a major challenge, much less in English. It is critical for City agencies to understand this context to effectively serve these parents and their children – children who are often very vulnerable, living in poverty, and attending low-performing schools.

Nonetheless, time and again, we see parents struggle with language access at various City offices. There appears to be a lack of caseworkers who speak Spanish fluently. In addition, we have seen very limited capacity, even with phone interpretation, to tend to families who speak relatively lower-incidence indigenous languages. These communication challenges can result in misunderstandings and mistakes.

Adoption of interpretation hotlines in schools and other institutions seems to be a particular challenge. We have rarely seen school, HRA, or ACS staff make use of interpretation hotlines. When high-quality interpretation can be provided in-house, that is welcome, but, when it is not,

we do not often see staff availing themselves of phone interpretation resources. Recently, a Masa family called our staff from a municipal *hospital* to ask for interpretation during a meeting with an oncologist because that doctor did not know how to access the interpretation hotline.

In addition, we have found that the understandably bureaucratic nature of City systems – such as the benefits recertification and special education evaluation processes – is particularly daunting for parents with limited literacy skills in Spanish. While providing documents in Spanish is helpful, parents with limited literacy are often overwhelmed and confused by the paperwork they receive in the mail. In our experience, they are more likely to make mistakes in completing that paperwork, and also more likely to miss appointments. They are therefore at greater risk of having benefits for their children cut off due to missed deadlines or errors.

In one case, for example, we have seen a parent struggle to navigate the following processes just over the last twelve months: applying to middle schools; correcting a birth certificate on which her child's name was spelled incorrectly; having her SNAP, Medicaid, and cash assistance cases closed and being sent to offices in Queens, far from the Bronx, to re-open them; having to go the Office of Child Support Enforcement with marriage and birth certificates to prevent a child support case from being mistakenly opened against her husband, with whom she lives; a reduction in cash assistance due to requesting aid with a utility payment, and later mistakenly receiving a bill for the amount of aid received; and receiving a bill for a "duplicate payment" apparently made in error by the City. This would be confusing for anyone – it is certainly confusing for our staff. It is very nearly unmanageable for a parent with no formal education in her home country, who cannot read or write in Spanish, and whose primary language is an indigenous language.

Most notable, if most difficult to tackle, is the issue of cultural competence. From the moment parents walk in the door of a city agency, they are often made to feel degraded, dehumanized, or defensive. Security guards in buildings can be aggressive, frustrated with people who do not speak English – or who they assume do not speak English. We have heard of caseworkers who, quite mistakenly, assume that it's easy to get one's papers – and that, therefore, if a parent has not adjusted their status, it must be due to some personal failing. Similarly, we have heard caseworkers express confusion as to why parents *choose* not to learn English. Overall, there seems to be very little awareness citywide of the realities many immigrant families face: no viable pathway to citizenship, limited formal education in one's primary language, and, in some cases, navigating Spanish as a second language and English as a third.

We see families reluctant to go to City agencies for tasks like re-budgeting SNAP cases or cash assistance interviews because of previous negative experiences. This has to improve. On-the-

ground staff must be offered more and better professional development opportunities to expose them to the rich cultural and linguistic diversity within New York City's immigrant communities.

It perhaps goes without saying that on-the-ground staff at City agencies, especially caseworkers, are under enormous pressure to serve clients efficiently. We have seen caseworkers decline to repeat instructions or explanations, likely because of the need to deal with a caseload that can feel, simply put, impossible. However, the reality is that some families need not only more cultural awareness or linguistic capacity – they also need more *time*. The system is not designed to accommodate this reality.

Last but not least, a quick aside on external factors we see affecting access to City services:

- With respect to housing, unless a child's parents have their papers, there are very few options for housing vouchers, subsidized housing, and emergency housing. As Mott Haven gentrifies, we see more families falling victim to unscrupulous landlords – and left with no public options to consider when the private market becomes unsustainable.
- Because most undocumented parents are cut off from health insurance options, basic preventive care falls to the emergency room/indigent care and badly-needed mental health care is almost impossible to access. We see people use monthly “collateral” visits as a pathway to mental health support through their child's Medicaid, but it's not enough. Even if it were, there is a sore lack of Spanish-speaking therapists and psychiatrists.
- Income verification for Medicaid and SNAP can be a problem when employers decline to provide letters verifying their employees' pay for fear of documenting that they employ undocumented workers. Misinformation also circulates about income thresholds, prompting parents living below the poverty line to think they will not be eligible for benefits if they disclose their true income.
- Rumors and misinformation circulate widely that families will not be able to apply for immigration relief if their citizen children access benefits, or that they will be asked to pay back the City for all services they've ever received. We have even heard that getting SNAP now will cut your child off from going to college later.

For those who are eligible for some form of immigration relief, we see challenges in navigating Medicaid and the private health care market, accessing affordable housing options, and, in general, entering the “over-the-table” workforce, particularly for adults accustomed to navigating a more informal job market.

Overall, we're grateful for this opportunity to share some of the feedback from Masa families and from our own experiences over the years. We hope the City will recognize the urgency of developing linguistic and cultural capacity that matches our city's extraordinary diversity.



Testimony by the New York Legal Assistance Group

Before the NYC Council Committee on Immigration regarding Coordinating Multi-Agency Support for Immigrant Families

October 21, 2016

Chair Menchaca, Council Members, and staff, good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Immigration Committee about challenges immigrant and mixed-status families face when accessing City services in New York City.

My name is Brian Hilburn and I am a staff attorney with LegalHealth, a division of the New York Legal Assistance Group, or NYLAG. NYLAG is a nonprofit law office dedicated to providing free legal services in civil law matters to low-income New Yorkers. LegalHealth, a medical-legal partnership, partners with 26 hospitals across New York City. We complement health care with legal care – providing free legal services in medical facilities and community-based health organizations as well as training many healthcare professionals to understand the legal issues their patients face.

As a provider of legal services to patients of all 11 NYC Health + Hospital acute care facilities, we serve a large number of undocumented immigrants and mixed-status households. Many health care professionals at our partner hospitals have been trained on how social determinants of health often have legal remedies and how to make referrals to our on-site legal clinics. As a result, we see first-hand the hardships and challenges facing mixed-status households. A major concern is housing stability, which has been linked to a multitude of health problems; people who are homeless are more likely to visit the emergency room, have longer stays if admitted to the hospital, and be readmitted within 30 days. Homelessness prevention for our client population is a high priority.

NYCHA residents in mixed immigration status households are required to pay a greater percentage of their income in rent than immigrant eligible families. Under current HUD regulations, undocumented immigrants are prohibited from receiving federal housing subsidies, but as long as one household member has an eligible immigration status, the entire household may reside in the NYCHA apartment. In such cases, however, NYCHA calculates rent for these mixed-status households by pro-rating the federal housing subsidy. We understand that the City does not have the power to change HUD regulations but, as I will discuss later, there are actions the City could take to alleviate this burden placed on mixed-status households.

As explained in the NYCHA Management Manual, Chapter III, Section VII (“Income Review and Verification & Interim Changes”), the rent for a mixed-status family will always be greater than the Statutory Rent (30% of adjusted household income) paid by immigrant-eligible families. NYCHA uses a somewhat complex formula, which is not specifically spelled out in the NYCHA Management Manual, to pro-rate the amount of the federal housing subsidy to which a mixed-status family is entitled.

Currently, LegalHealth has multiple mixed-status clients in eviction proceedings because they cannot afford their NYCHA rent under this formula. One of these clients, Alma, is an undocumented mother of an adult, U.S. citizen son, Alonso, with severe intellectual disabilities. He depends on his mother for all his activities of daily living.

The sole income for this household is Alonso’s Supplemental Security Income of \$733 per month. Their mixed-status NYCHA monthly rent is \$533 (73% of their household income), leaving Alma unable to pay the rent and other living expenses for her and her son. The statutory

rent for an immigrant-eligible family in their situation would be just 30% of their income. In addition to the Alonso's disabilities, Alma suffers from End Stage Renal Disease and receives lifesaving Hemodialysis three times a week. Due to her illness, caring for Alonso, and her lack of employment authorization, she has been unable to work. As a result, Alma repeatedly ends up in housing court. Alma came to LegalHealth in the middle of a non-payment proceeding in Housing Court. Just one year before she had received a one-shot grant from HRA to settle a previous non-payment proceeding. She will need yet another one-shot grant to resolve the current matter.

Not only are immigrant families penalized for being mixed-status households, but they are penalized additionally if they are unable to work, as in our client's case. Alma is currently paying 76% of her household income while unable to find work but, ironically, were she able to find work and make, for example, an additional \$1000 a month, the family would pay approximately 36% of their income, according to NYCHA's formula.

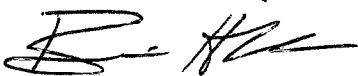
To make matters worse still, it appears that this penalty for living in a mixed-status household is felt even more harshly by families with very low incomes. Take, for example, another undocumented client whose U.S. citizen child received \$460 per month in total public assistance benefits. The mother did not have employment authorization and was unable to find work. The family's mixed-status rent was \$495 monthly (107.6% of their income). As a result, this client has also been dependent on one-shot grants when she falls behind on rent. Many of these families have already been shuffled through the shelter system only to be placed in public housing they cannot afford, and risk falling right back into the shelter system.

Given New York City's current efforts to curb homelessness, this NYCHA policy runs counter to the City's goal. In many cases, U.S. citizen children are put at greater risk of homelessness because their parents happen to be undocumented. They are, in essence, penalized for their parents' immigration status. While this is at least in part due to HUD policy, there are actions the city could take to reduce the burden of this penalty.

We respectfully recommend that the City should pay the difference between the mixed-status, pro-rated rent and the statutory rent. This would allow these families to pay a cap of 30% of their income in rent, lessening their risk of homelessness and allowing them to maintain stable housing. New York City is already paying for many of these families in the form of one-shot grants through HRA. The City would likely save money by providing the remainder of their housing subsidy up front, instead of paying built up arrears with one-shot grants, taking up valuable Housing Court resources, and subjecting these families to the added stress of multiple court proceedings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to working with the City to ensure that immigrants living in New York City's public housing system are treated fairly and without bias.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian E. Hilburn, Esq.

Staff Attorney, New York Legal Assistance Group

Council Member Menchaca and Members of the Immigration Committee:

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am Alexandra Rizio, and I testify in my capacity as a Senior Staff Attorney at the Safe Passage Project. Safe Passage is a non-profit legal services provider and member of the Immigrant Children's Advocate Relief Effort, or ICARE coalition. ICARE member organizations, including Safe Passage, Legal Aid Society, The Door, Catholic Charities and Central American Legal Assistance, receive generous funding and support from the New York City Council, the New York Community Trust, and the Robin Hood Foundation. This support has allowed Safe Passage and our partner organizations to represent over one thousand immigrant children facing deportation in New York City alone. Our clients, children from Central America who entered the U.S. unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, have fled unspeakable violence and instability there. They are from some of the most dangerous so-called "peace-time" cities in the world, where rates of murder, torture and sexual assault soar unchecked. Now that our clients have reunited with family or adult guardians in New York City, the City Council has taken the important step of recognizing that these children are New Yorkers who deserve, at the very least, legal representation so that they can pursue lives of safety and peace. I am constantly grateful that I practice law in New York City, where my government puts into action its commitment to human rights ideals. Our city is stronger because of these brave children, and because of your willingness to help them.

Safe Passage represents children in removal (deportation) proceedings. The federal government does not appoint or provide lawyers to children, even though immigration law is massively complex and the consequences of the proceedings can be a matter of life and death: a child who is deported from the United States to her home country is delivered back to the danger from which she fled. Through direct representation and mentoring of *pro bono* attorneys, Safe Passage aspires to ensure that no child stands alone as they pursue legal relief.

Families' Needs and Coordination Between Agencies

In addition to our legal work, Safe Passage is committed to the holistic health and wellness of our clients. Their needs are many and varied; connecting them with long-term services can be a challenge, for a variety of reasons that I will describe. Safe Passage has an amazing full-time social worker, Samantha Norris, on staff. Sam is the sole social worker for our NYC team and its clients. Her role is to meet with clients, make assessments, and refer them to relevant city agencies and programs that can meet their needs. Aside from their pressing legal issues, Safe Passage's clients suffer from a significant number of other interlocking challenges. Sam is the person who coordinates myriad agency interventions our clients' behalf.

Our clients' biggest needs are accessing appropriate **physical and mental health care** to help them address the trauma they've experienced. Many of our clients suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and self-harm, among other issues. They also struggle to adjust to life in the United States.

Increased collaboration between HRA, DHS and MOIA could be extremely useful for our young clients. Benefits is a complicated area of law and policy, especially when applied to immigrants in different statuses. Failures in this realm cause our clients considerable stress. Our client Haida¹ was pregnant, and also cared for her 3-year-old daughter, Sara. Sara attended school in Harlem, but Haida gained access to a shelter in the Bronx. Though there was a school down the street from the shelter, Haida was unable to enroll her daughter there. She had to commute every day to drop her daughter off and pick her up. This was at a time that Haida was battling for asylum, searching for a job and attempting to stabilize her life.

Our client Yesenia, who is HIV positive and had recently won asylum, was turned away from HRA after trying to apply for SNAP benefits. HRA told her that she would only be eligible for SNAP after she had been in the United States for 5 years, which is inaccurate. Increased collaboration between HRA, MOIA, DOE and DHS could have prevented our clients from experiencing ongoing stress.

For clients who experience domestic violence or who are victims of crime once they arrive in the United States, the city's Family Justice Centers provide wonderfully holistic services. In our experience, ACS has been similarly attentive to the needs of newly-arrived immigrant kids. However, there are instances where the NYPD could increase inter-agency communication with FJCs, ACS or MOIA, for the benefit of our clients. For example, Keyla, a young undocumented girl, and her younger sister, a U.S. citizen, were both sexually abused by the same member of their household. The police only took a report from the U.S. citizen sister, and refused to take a report from Keyla. This is especially problematic because Keyla, as a crime victim, is potentially eligible for a U visa, but only if a law enforcement agency such as the NYPD certifies a form stating that she was helpful to the investigation. Keyla wants to help and bravely tried to do so, but she was ignored by the officers investigating the crime. In this case, her undocumented status caused her to be viewed as an insufficient victim, and this is the very thing that is preventing her from changing her status. It's an ironic, vicious cycle.

Sometimes, inter-agency collaboration can cause negative consequences for our young clients and their families. In instances where there is domestic violence in the home, many immigrants are afraid to contact the NYPD, for fear that they will not be listened to, like Keyla (above), or that they will be reported to immigration and deported. Families also fear that ACS

¹ All client names have been changed.

will charge adult victims of domestic violence with child neglect, for not preventing the children from witnessing the abuse.

I'd like to conclude with a positive example of inter-agency communication. I spent most of the day yesterday with a traumatized young man in the psych emergency room at an HHC Hospital. He had recently become homeless, and the stress of his situation combined with his past trauma was too much for him to bear. The attending psychiatrist assured me that he would be given referrals to DHS for housing and to other appropriate agencies. I left the ER worried for my client, but also relieved that he would get the medical care and services he desperately needs.

I have articulated some examples where various New York City agencies could consider increasing communication or formal programming to better respond to the needs of immigrant youth who are newly arrived in New York City. On the whole, though, Safe Passage has found New York City agencies to be willing partners in the ongoing effort to help these New Yorkers acclimate to our city, and to thrive here. Safe Passage Project looks forward to many more years of collaboration with these agencies, and with the City Council.

Thank you for your time.

Testimony Submitted to the Immigration Committee of the NYC Council

**Re: Coordinating Multi-Agency Support for Immigrant Families
Friday, October 21, 2016, 10 a.m.**

Good morning, Committee members. My name is Lorilei Williams and I am the Immigration Director of Staten Island Legal Services, part of Legal Services NYC. Legal Services NYC is the largest provider of free civil legal services in the nation with offices in all five boroughs where our services benefit over 80,000 New Yorkers annually with a wide range of civil legal services. Thank you for addressing this critical issue today, "Coordinating Multi-Agency Support for Immigrant Families."

Before the Committee can address multi-agency support for immigrant families, it is important to recognize that immigrants are oftentimes unaware of what services they may be eligible for. For example, many immigrants who do not have lawful permanent residence, or "green cards," may be eligible for Medicaid as immigrants who are permanently residing under the color of law, or "PRUCOL." Immigrants may also be unaware of rights they have under our education laws, such as rights to individualized education plans, or "IEPs," or evaluations in their native language. Immigrant domestic violence survivors often do not know of the basic protections law enforcement provides to keep them safe, and know even less of their rights to access additional public benefits.

Perhaps most critically, immigrants are often unaware of the many public benefits they can receive. The list of potential benefits for various types of immigrants is incredibly lengthy and complex. The eligibility criteria can be so complex that even nonprofit service providers are often limited in their capacity to advocate for receipt of these benefits. As immigration legal service providers, while we may be familiar with PRUCOL eligibility for Medicaid, our familiarity may be limited with regards to benefits such as Supplemental Security Income, or "SSI," food stamps (SNAP), and Temporary Aid for Needy Families, or "TANF." Entire legal practices are dedicated to ensuring equitable access to public benefits, and immigration legal service providers oftentimes do not have the capacity or funding to provide truly holistic solutions to immigrant families, which is indicative of how complex these issues are. We appreciate the Committee's intentions to facilitate the adjustment of services when immigration status may change or to establish mechanisms of cross referrals and coordination, we hope that the Committee will continue its efforts to increase education and outreach among immigrant communities and nonprofit service providers as to their eligibility for existing services.

Additionally, it is imperative that government and other agencies train and prepare their staff appropriately to serve immigrants of varying statuses. I recently represented a client who was a lawful U nonimmigrant with a pending application for lawful permanent residence. Unfortunately, he had a stroke and was left in a non-responsive state before passing away a few months later. Despite evidence of both his U nonimmigrant

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Nancy Goldhill, Project Director

status and pending application for lawful permanent residence, the hospital failed to enroll him in Medicaid, leaving a horrifying financial mess for his now grieving widow and son to deal with. Throughout his hospitalization, the hospital failed to use appropriate interpreters and made this incredibly challenging time even more difficult through its lack of language access and cultural competency.

As a representative of the Staten Island community, I must also emphasize that our borough immigrants suffer even more barriers to accessing services. Due to the marginalization of immigrant communities here on the island, our clients report serious issues with language access and cultural competency on a regular basis when dealing with public entities. Of the agency services available, few are accessible by Staten Island immigrants given the limited availability of public transportation on the island. For example, the Special Exit and Prevention Supplement program, or "SEPs," is a service for certain eligible adults that enables them to secure permanent housing. In order to apply for this service, applicants must travel out of Staten Island to Brooklyn. This requires hours of travel on a combination of buses, trains, and ferry. To make matters worse, if an immigrant has special needs, taxis are not readily available or they are exorbitantly expensive and Access-A-Ride is not always reliable.

It is easy to imagine cases where immigrant families run into barrier after barrier when attempting to access city services. Working family-providers must take off from work, many times at their own expense, and travel hours to attend appointments. Parents must secure childcare, a near impossible feat when you are low-income and have young children. Those who are limited in their English proficiency must brave language barriers, and both cultural and racial discrimination when service providers have limited cultural competency. Finally, they must do all of this while fighting the stigma of being dependent on the government, no matter how great their need and right to benefits is.

In approaching this issue, we ask again that the Committee focus first and foremost on educating immigrants and their nonprofit providers, whether they are legal or social service providers, on the benefits they may have access to. Second, education and training among city agency staff must improve to ensure that immigrants who do reach out for help are screened and assisted appropriately. Only after this will the Committee be able to focus productively on spearheading multi-agency support for immigrant families. We believe that multi-agency support can best be achieved through "one-stop-shops" where immigrants can be screened for a multitude of services at once. These screenings can then be forwarded to the appropriate agencies, with the intention of reducing the number of trips an applicant must make to apply for and follow-up on services. Finally, we would recommend that each agency work closely with attorneys well-versed in immigration law to gain a better understanding of an immigrant's current status and the possibilities of any change in immigration status in the future.

Thank you for addressing these important concerns, and we look forward to continuing this conversation with the Committee.

Sincerely,



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FOR THE RECORD

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**Testimony of Melissa Brennan before the
New York City Council Committee on Immigration
“Coordinating Multi-Agency Support for Immigrant Families”**

October 21, 2016

Good morning, my name is Melissa Brennan. I work at the Urban Justice Center’s Community Development Project (CDP) as the Supervising Attorney of CDP’s immigration law practice. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on coordinating multi-agency support for immigrant families.

The Community Development Project provides legal, participatory research and policy support to strengthen the work of grassroots and community-based groups in New York City to dismantle racial, economic and social oppression. Through our legal services in the areas of employment and immigration law, we support the community organizing efforts of immigrant community organizations citywide. CDP has received Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI) funds for the past seven years, and is the lead agency behind the Citywide Immigrant Legal Empowerment Collective (CILEC), a consortium of immigrant service providers recently awarded IOI funds to extend legal services, case management and outreach to low-income immigrants.

In our work with community-based partners across the five boroughs, we see firsthand the need for greater coordination to ensure that low-income immigrant New Yorkers can benefit from government-funded services and supports. Stymied by a lack of information, cultural and linguistic barriers, and a web of complex rules and restrictions that govern immigrant eligibility for many benefits, immigrants often lack meaningful access to services designed to help them access economic opportunities and achieve greater stability.

Community-based organizations play an invaluable role in connecting immigrant New Yorkers to help but lack the capacity to address community needs in a comprehensive way. Due to limited resources, community-based organizations must maintain a limited scope and are largely unable to provide the comprehensive services that low-income immigrants so desperately need. At the same time, it is community-based organizations that are best positioned to assist immigrants and their families who need access to government-funded programs. Groups including African Communities Together, Damayan, DRUM and New Immigrant Community Empowerment, to name but a few, already provide varied a wide range of services to the low-income immigrants in their midst. They have deep knowledge of community needs and experiences; their staffs speak relevant community languages; and perhaps most critically, they have already won community trust. With additional resources, community-based organizations can educate the communities they serve about government-funded supports including affordable housing lotteries, critical safety-net programs such as Medicaid and Food Stamps, and publicly-funded civil legal services including those addressing immigration, housing and workers' rights.

It is also imperative that the City address systemic barriers that hinder immigrant access to services. Chief among these is language access. As you surely know, roughly one-quarter of New Yorkers describes themselves as limited English proficient. We are aware the Council's ongoing work around this issue and look forward to providing testimony at a future hearing on this topic.

In addition, the Council should consider the practical barriers that impede low-income immigrants from accessing government-funded supports. The immigrant communities we work with frequently cite a lack of access to public transportation as a hindrance that prevents those in need from connecting with help. The \$5.50 cost of a round-trip subway or bus ride needed to reach a government-funded program, such as an ESL class, or government office, such as a public benefits application center, is an expense that many low-income immigrants cannot afford. The MTA's existing reduced-fare program does not include a benefit for low-income New Yorkers and so, lacking alternatives, many

low-income immigrants are unable to take advantage of the full range of programs offered across the city.

In closing, we firmly believe that immigrants in need are best served by trusted organizations working within their own communities. We urge you to extend resources to bolster the capacity of community-based organizations while at the same time addressing the systemic and practical barriers that impede low-income immigrants from accessing critical government programs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony of Rafael Quezada
In Support Of The New York Family Unity Project**

Saludos a los concejales. Me llamo Rafael Quezada, soy de Ecuador y soy un miembro de la organización NICE. Yo emigre en los 1986 y recibí mi residencia por la amnestia de Ronald Reagan. Yo vengo a dar acá la experiencia que viví cuando yo fue detenido por inmigración en febrero de este año.

Los federales golpearon la puerta a las 5 de la mañana y en entrar me allanaron en mi cuarto. Había como 8 o 10 agentes posicionaron por todo mi edificio y la calle para arrestar a una persona y estaban armados. Me llevaron a Varick Street para procesarme y luego a el Facilidad Correccional del Condado de Hudson en New Jersey. Fue un centro de detención privada y estaban haciendo bastante negocio.

En detención había cosas muy peligrosos y feos; había drogas, agresión y peleas y en mi tiempo allí una señora hasta se suicidio. No había orden entre los guardias, nos trataron muy mal y nos castigaban mucho de manera violente, por ejemplo usaron bastante fuerza y a veces no nos permitio salir de nuestras celdas por el error de uno o dos personas. Los condiciones eran muy malos, por ejemplo, había un undacion en los banos de cada celda y había como un pie y medio de agua sucia por algunas días hasta que lo repararon.

Yo pedi ayuda al consulado Ecuatoriano y me proporcionaron con el conexión a la abogada Julie Dona. Me fue a visitar para escuchar lo que vivi. Ella me explico el proceso y los detalles de mi caso criminal y me ayudo resolver los cargos. Al final, fue por un error clerica que inmigración se involucró en mi caso e iniciaron el proceso de deportación. Mi abogada Julie fue una muy buena persona y me ayudo mucho; ayudo en hablar con mi familia, ella es muy especial, una persona numero uno, y ella me salvo.

En salir de detención, perdí mi apartamento y todos mis pertenencias -- mi televisión y electrónicos, joyas, ropa, etc. No había ayuda para mi y vivi en la calle por un mes. La abogada Julie me ayudo en conectarme con una trabajadora social quien me ayudo mucho para refugio, cupones de alimento y mas ayuda como persona sin refugio. Tambien me mando a la oficina de Workforce One para yo buscar trabajo pero al final no hubo un conexión con ningún trabajo y dijeron que no podrían poner mas atención a mi caso. Como miembro de NICE, podria contar con el respaldo de Christina Fox por lo de este experiencia, también con toda la ayuda que prestan a las jornaleros con los trabajos y las problemas que enfrentamos cotidianamente todos los días como discriminación, robo salario, etc.

Los autoridades competentes tienen que hacer algo sobre estos testimonies de la gente aqui hoy. Cuando uno estaba en detención convivíamos con inmigrantes de todos los países y había muchos casos de detención diferentes. Por favor, tomen en constancia que no tome nosotros inmigrantes como criminales; por favor, tomenos como humanos con sentimientos, y tratanos sin brutalidad en los manos policia.

Greeting Councilmembers. My name is Rafael Quezada, I am from Ecuador and a member of the organization NICE. I emigrated from Ecuador in 1986 and received my residency through amnesty under Ronald Reagan. I have come here to share my lived experience when I was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in February of this year.

ICE banged on my door at 5 in the morning and upon entering, cornered me in the room in which I was staying. There were 8 to 10 agents positioned throughout my building and in the street -- to arrest one person -- and they were armed. They took me to Varick Street to process me and then to Hudson County Correctional Facility in New Jersey. [Hudson] is a private detention center and are doing a lot of business.

In detention there were very dangerous and ugly things; there were drugs, aggression and fights and during my time there a woman even committed suicide. There was no order amongst the guards, they treated us very badly and disciplined us a lot in violent ways; for example, they would use excessive force and sometimes would not allow any of us to leave our cells for the wrongdoing of one or two people. The conditions were very bad; for example, the bathrooms in each cell flooded and there was about a foot and a half of dirty water for several days until it was repaired.

I asked for help from the Ecuadorian Consulate and they provided me with the connection to the lawyer Julie Dona from Legal Aid Society. She came to visit me to listen to what I had experienced. She explained the process and the details of my criminal case and helped me resolve my charges. In the end, it was because of a clerical error that ICE became involved in my case and initiated the process of deportation. My lawyer Julie is a very good person and helped me a lot; she helped me speak with my family, she is very special, a number one kind of person, and she saved me.

When I got out of detention I had lost my apartment and all of my belongings -- my television and electronics, jewelry, clothes, etc. There was no help for me and I lived in the street for a month. My lawyer Julie helped by connecting me to a social worker who helped me a lot in finding shelter, food stamps and other help for homeless people. My social worker also sent me to the Workforce One office to find work, but at the end I was not able to connect with any work and they told me that they could not give any more attention to my case. As a NICE member, I could count on the support of staff like Christina Fox in regards to this experience, as well as all of the help they provide to day laborers around jobs and the problems we face daily like discrimination, wage theft and among others.

Competent authorities must to something about the testimonies being share by people here today. When I was in detention, I shared in community with immigrants from many countries and there were many different immigration cases. Please let it be known that us immigrants should not be seen as criminales. Please see us as the humans with feelings and treat us without brutality at the hands of the police.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alexandra Rizo

Address: 181 St. Marks Ave. Brooklyn NY

I represent: Safe Passage Project

Address: 185 West Broadway NY NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lorlei Williams

Address: Staten Island Legal Services, 36 Richmond Ter, Ste 285
10301

I represent: Legal Services NYC

Address: 40 Worth St, New York, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christina Fox (social worker - NCE)

Address: ~~820~~ 820 St Johns Pl for Quezada

I represent: Interpreter for Rafael Quezada

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rafael Acosta (Ecuadorian immigrant)

Address: 7129 Roosevelt Ave Jackson Hght

I represent: immigrants

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrea Saenz

Address: (to be on same panel as NICE)

I represent: Brooklyn Defender Services

Address: 177 Livingston St, 7th Fl, Brooklyn 11201

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/21

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Commissioner Nisha Agarwal

Address: 253 Broadway

I represent: Mayor's Office of Immigrant Aff

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: 10/21/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jessica Coffrin-St. Julien

Address: 2770 3rd Avenue, 1st Fl., Bronx, NY 10471

I represent: Masa

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/21/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Maribel Colome

Address: 339 Tompkins Ave 2Fl, Brooklyn, NY 11216

I represent: Make the Road NY

Address: 92-10 Roosevelt Ave Jackson, NY 11372

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/21/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joy Ziegeweid

Address: 350 Jay St. 15th Floor, Brooklyn NY 11201

I represent: Sanctuary for Families

Address: PO 1406 Wall St. Station New York NY 10268

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/21/2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Howard Shih

Address: _____

I represent: Asian American Federation

Address: 120 Wall St NY, NY 10005

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/21/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jessica Gorelick

Address: 60-15 Woodside Ave Woodside 11377

I represent: Human Rights First

Address: 75 Broad Street, NYC 10004

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/21/2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brian Hilburn, New York Legal Assist. Group

Address: 7 Hanover Sq, 18th Fl, NY, NY 10004

I represent: NYLAG

Address: Same

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms