

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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March 24, 2010
Start: 2:00pm
Recess: XX:XXpm

HELD AT: 250 Broadway
Hearing Room, 14th Fl

B E F O R E:
DANIEL DROMM
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Charles Barron
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Jumaane D. Williams
Mathieu Eugene

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Hey, good
3 afternoon, everybody. My name is Daniel Dromm.
4 And I am the Chair of the New York City Council's
5 Committee on Immigration. I would like to
6 introduce the other members of the Committee here
7 with me today. We have Council Member Charles
8 Barron from Brooklyn and we have Council Member
9 Ydanis Rodriguez from Manhattan.

10 Today, the Committee will vote on
11 proposed Introduction Number 3-A, which calls on
12 New York City's Administration for Children's
13 Services, commonly referred to as ACS, to
14 designate an individual, or individuals, to create
15 and implement a comprehensive new plan to aid
16 immigrant children in contact with ACS who may be
17 eligible for special immigrant juvenile status or
18 other immigration benefits.

19 Special immigrant juvenile status,
20 or SIGS, is a form of immigration relief that
21 allows certain qualified undocumented children to
22 become permanent residents of the United States,
23 so long as they submit an application before
24 reaching 21 years of age. ACS has a duty to
25 identify SIGS eligible children and assist them in

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2 obtaining immigration relief. Although ACS has
3 made great strides to address the immigration
4 needs of children in its care, it has come to the
5 Council's attention, through hearings held over
6 the past several years, that more needs to be done
7 to protect immigrant youth.

8 Most recently, the Committee on
9 Immigration held a hearing on Intro Number 3 on
10 March 2nd, 2010. During the hearing, the
11 Committee heard testimony from ACS, as well as
12 immigrant and child welfare advocates, who have
13 daily contact with SIGS-eligible children in
14 support of the legislation to require ACS to
15 review its strategies and propose a comprehensive
16 new plan to address the needs of immigrant youth.
17 Testimony also suggested that the bill's language
18 be strengthened by providing specifics on how ACS
19 could facilitate services for SIGS-eligible
20 children.

21 The suggestion provided during the
22 March 2nd hearing, the suggestions provided during
23 the March 2nd hearing, were taken into
24 consideration when making changes to the
25 legislation. The plan called for Intro Number 3-A

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2 would systemize how ACS identifies country of
3 birth, identifies children who may qualify for
4 SIGS or other immigration benefits, tracks such
5 children to the extent practicable and consistent
6 with confidentiality requirements, assist
7 identified children in obtaining immigration
8 services, including birth certificates and
9 provides mandatory training for ACS and contract
10 agency caseworkers.

11 Beginning one year after ACS
12 completes the plan, the bill requires ACS to
13 submit annual reports through 2015 to the City
14 Council. The reports would reflect ACS' ability
15 to identify, track and coordinate immigration
16 services for non-citizen youths with whom it has
17 had contact and ACS' progress towards achieving
18 the goals of the plan. The report would also
19 contain detailed descriptions of any programs,
20 procedures, memoranda or training materials
21 concern the implementation and goals of the plan.

22 I believe that this legislation
23 will allow ACS to do as much as they possibly can
24 within their means to serve immigrant children in
25 its care. I would like to thank the staff, in

1
2 particular, Julene Beckford and Israel Rodriguez
3 and my Chief of Staff, Earl Sweeney, for working
4 on this legislation. I strongly urge my
5 colleagues to support Intro Number 3-A.

6 Unless any of my colleagues would
7 like to make a comment, I'd like to commence the
8 vote. And I'd like to welcome Council Member
9 Jumaane Williams, who has joined us, from
10 Brooklyn, as well.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
12 Committee Clerk, roll call on the Committee on
13 Immigration, Introduction 3-A. Council Member
14 Dromm.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN: Barron.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN: Rodriguez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Great
22 bill, aye.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of four
24 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
25 abstention, item's adopted. Members, please sign

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the Committee report. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I'm going to
leave it open for 15 minutes for additional
members to vote if they so desire. That's it.
Thank you. Okay. Thank you, everybody.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Eugene.

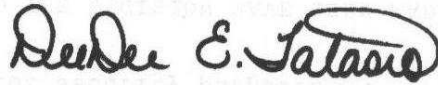
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Final vote on the
Committee on Immigration is now five in the
affirmative, zero in the negative and no
abstentions.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, DeeDee E. Tataseo certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "DeeDee E. Tataseo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.Date April 18, 2010