

New York City Council
Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Prime Sponsors:

Council Members Hudson

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting the department of social services from disclosing shelter addresses

Submitted by:

Council Member Hudson

Justification:

Currently, there are no regulations prohibiting city agencies from disclosing the addresses of shelters to certain members of the public. The unwarranted publication of a shelter address in a public forum can pose a safety concern for shelter residents, most notably for domestic violence survivors or other vulnerable individuals in shelter who are fleeing dangerous situations.

This bill would prohibit the Department of Social Services from disclosing the addresses of shelters to any member of the public unless such disclosure is required by federal or state law or regulation or by local law enforcement. This would still give elected officials and law enforcement, among others (including city employees serving shelters, nonprofit employees supporting the shelter, or individuals in the shelter), access to addresses.