

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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December 21, 2009

Start: 10:55 am

Recess: 10:59 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: KENDALL B. STEWART
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Kendall B. Stewart
Charles Barron
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras
Darlene Mealy
Annabel Palma

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2 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Good morning.
3 My name is Kendall Stewart and I am Chair of the
4 City Council's Committee on Immigration. I would
5 like to recognize the other members of the
6 committee who are here today. We have Council
7 Member Barron, Council Member Mealy, Council
8 Member Palma, Council Member Eugene and Council
9 Member Ferreras.

10 I would also like to recognize the
11 committee staff Julene Beckford, counsel to the
12 committee, and Israel Rodriguez, who is policy
13 analyst to the committee.

14 Today the committee will vote on
15 Proposed Resolution 1087-A. This Resolution calls
16 on the United States Congress to pass the
17 Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors
18 Act of 2009.

19 Despite the fact that many
20 undocumented children are raised in the United
21 States, attend local schools and identify with
22 American culture, existing immigration laws and
23 financial obstacles create unique barriers for
24 undocumented youth pursuing higher education.

25 Children account for 1.8 million,

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2 or 15%, of the approximately 12 million
3 undocumented immigrants living in the United
4 States. Current laws have no provisions for
5 undocumented young people to legalize their
6 status.

7 Passage of the DREAM Act will
8 provide a path to lawful permanent residence for
9 undocumented youth who pursue a higher education.
10 As such, undocumented young people brought to the
11 United States at a young age by their parents will
12 no longer be punished for the indiscretions of
13 their parents.

14 The Council heard unanimous support
15 on Resolution 1087 during a joint hearing on the
16 Committees on Immigration and Higher Education
17 held on October 24, 2007. The Committee on
18 Immigration has consistently supported the
19 immigrant community because of the positive
20 contributions made to New York City. I urge my
21 colleagues to continue to support this community
22 by voting in support of Proposed Resolution 1087-
23 A. I would like to call the vote.

24 ERIC STEVENSON: Eric Stevenson,
25 committee clerk, Committee on Immigration Reso

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2 1087-A. Stewart?

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CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Yes.

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ERIC STEVENSON: Barron?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

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ERIC STEVENSON: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I vote aye.

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ERIC STEVENSON: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [No

10 response].

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ERIC STEVENSON: Eugene?

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye

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and I want my name to be added as a co-sponsor.

14

ERIC STEVENSON: Ferreras?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote

16

aye.

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ERIC STEVENSON: Mealy?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye.

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ERIC STEVENSON: The vote stands at

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six in the affirmative, no negatives and no

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abstentions. The motion carries.

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CHAIRPERSON STEWART: This meeting

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is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 *Donna Hintze*

Date December 30, 2009