

THE COUNCIL

The City of New York

Int. No. 358

July 15, 1998

Introduced by Council Members Henry, Clarke and Marshall; also Council Members Duane, Fisher, Michels, Robinson and Sabini—read and referred to the Committee on General Welfare.

A LOCAL LAW

To amend the New York City Charter, in relation to establishing a Commission on New Americans.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

1 Section one. Legislative intent and findings. The City Council hereby finds that the
2 federal government has enacted laws and initiated new policies governing immigrants
3 that will have a significant impact on the City of New York in that the New York City
4 Planning Department has determined that half the households in the City have at least
5 one member who is foreign born. The effect of such policies is to draw distinctions
6 between those city residents who are American citizens and those who are not, and to
7 establish new restrictions on the provision of city services that utilize federal funds. In
8 order to lawfully deliver the services provided by New York City, city officials must
9 develop expertise in federal immigration law for the purpose of determining who is eli-
10 gible for services, and who is responsible for paying for these services. Further, exper-
11 tise in the area of federal immigration law and policies is needed because of the vast
12 number of city residents who are directly affected, and because the new policies repre-
13 sent a departure from past practices in New York City which, as a matter of policy, has
14 refrained from inquiring about an individual's citizenship status.



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1 *until the appointment and qualification of his or her successor. The chair shall be*
2 *appointed for a four-year term.*

3 *c. The commission, shall within the appropriations available therefor, employ such*
4 *deputies, assistants, technical experts and other employees as may be needed for the*
5 *performance of the duties prescribed herein.*

6 *d. The commission may meet as often as is necessary to implement the provisions of*
7 *this chapter provided that the commission shall meet at least once every eight weeks.*

8 § 3031 *Duties and powers of the commission on new Americans. a. The commis-*
9 *sion shall assist immigrants and city officials and agencies in interpreting applicable*
10 *provisions of all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and executive orders*
11 *impacting upon the city, immigrants, their families, and their communities.*

12 *b. The commission shall promote public awareness of the needs, concerns and con-*
13 *tributions of immigrant communities in New York City.*

14 *c. The commission shall consult with and assist groups and organization providing*
15 *services to immigrants and act on behalf of immigrants in relation to matters under the*
16 *jurisdiction of the commission.*

17 *d. The commission may offer advice to other state and local government*
18 *bodies about the impact of changes in government policy on the city and its residents.*

19 *e. Each agency or department which is required to compile data or statistics in*
20 *relation to immigrants pursuant to any federal or state statute, law, rule, regulation or*
21 *executive order shall report or transmit such information to the commission within*
22 *thirty days of publishing or filing this information.*

23 *f. The commission shall monitor the activities of the federal government in relation*
24 *to changes in the immigration laws including, but not limited to, eligibility for benefits*
25 *and the admission of new immigrants into the United States and may advise the federal*

- 1 *government about the impact changes in government policy on the city and its residents.*
- 2 *g. The commission shall recommend ways of coordinating the delivery of services*
- 3 *to immigrants by not-for-profit corporations and community-based organizations.*
- 4 *h. The commission shall specifically target issues of general concern to immigrants*
- 5 *in New York City and prepare on a yearly basis an agenda and a detailed written plan*
- 6 *on how the commission will respond to the targeted issues.*
- 7 § 3. *This local law shall take effect sixty days after it has been enacted into law.*

Note: Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [] to be omitted.