

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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October 16, 2017
Start: 3:20 p.m.
Recess: 3:39 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,
16th Fl.

B E F O R E:
CARLOS MENCHACA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Mathieu Eugene
Daniel Dromm
Peter A. Koo
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

TRANSCRIPTION NOTE: Chair Menchaca

translates to Spanish [00:03:41].

[sound check]

[pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Buenos dias a

todos. I am Council Member Carlos Menchaca; I'm

chair of the New York City's Council Committee on

Immigration. Today the Committee on Immigration will

vote on a preconsidered resolution that would

authorize the Speaker to file or join amicus briefs

on behalf of the Council in litigation challenging

the rescission or modification of the Deferred Action

for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, which provides

temporary immigration relief to certain undocumented

youth.

As you know, this is a topic that is very

near and dear to my heart. I have been a champion

for undocumented youth and young adults. Dreamers

deserve the right to attain the American dream and it

is our job to ensure that these hardworking youth and

young adults are supported every step of the way.

Before going any further I'd like to

recognize the following council members who are here

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2 with us today -- from Queens, Peter Koo; Queens,
3 Danny Dromm; and others are coming. Thank you so
4 much Council Members for being here.

5 The term "dreamer" is used to describe
6 young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the
7 U.S. as children and know this country to be their
8 home. Dreamers assimilate into American schools and
9 internalize American beliefs; sadly, without a path
10 to legal immigration status or a meaningful
11 opportunity to pursue their education and
12 professional development, dreamers are forced to live
13 in the shadows. In light of congressional inaction
14 on immigration reform, in 2012 President Obama
15 created the DACA program which provides temporary
16 protection from deportation and work authorization to
17 certain dreamers who are in school or who obtain the
18 high school diploma or GED in the United States.

19 In September of this year, the Trump
20 Administration terminated the DACA program effective
21 March 2018, allowing only a small subset of DACA
22 recipients to renew their status one last time. In
23 response, the New York State Attorney General and 16
24 other states sued the federal government, alleging
25 that the abrupt termination of the program was

1
2 discriminatory in nature and also violated the
3 constitutional rights of DACA recipients.

4 The Preconsidered Resolution being voted
5 on today would allow the Speaker of the City Council
6 to file or join supporting briefs in litigation to
7 defend the DACA program and protect dreamers, our New
8 Yorkers, our brothers and sisters, our family. This
9 falls in line with this Council's longstanding
10 commitment to supporting our city's immigrant youth.

11 **[00:03:41] Spanish**

12 Thank you for joining us here today and
13 we are ready to vote on this preconsidered
14 resolution. Thank you to my incredible committee
15 here but also to my staff, including Indiana Porta,
16 our legal counsel. Now we can take vote, roll call.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
18 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
19 Immigration, Preconsidered Resolution. Chair
20 Menchaca.

21 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions; the resolution has been adopted... [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: And we will leave it for a few minutes... we're gonna leave it for ten minutes. Thank you. We're gonna leave it open for ten minutes. Thank you.

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Mathieu Eugene. Council Member; you ready?

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee on Immigration, Preconsidered Resolution. Council Member Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you to Mr. Chair and thank you also to the wonderful staff who kept it open for me and I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote Committee on Immigration; the resolution has been adopted by the Committee 5 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

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CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Great and that
ends our committee and our vote. Thank you so much.
We are now adjourned.

[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date October 25, 2017