

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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Thursday, October 19, 2023

Start: 9:17 A.M.

Recess: 9:37 A.M.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Shahana Hanif, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Carmen N. De La Rosa  
Rita C. Joseph  
Shekar Krishnan,  
Francisco P. Moya  
Pierina Ana Sanchez  
Sandra Ung

Other Council Members Attending: Narcisse

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION  
A P P E A R A N C E S  
NONE

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2 SERGEANT WONG: Sound check for the Committee on  
3 Immigration. Today's date is October 19, 2023 -  
4 being recorded by Danny Huang in the Committee Room.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and welcome to  
6 the Committee on Immigration. Please place all  
7 electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode.

8 Chair Hanif, we are ready to begin.

9 CHAIRPERSON HANIF: Good morning, and thank you  
10 for attending today's vote of the Committee on  
11 Immigration. We will be voting on proposed  
12 Introduction 1084-A, sponsored by Council Member  
13 Mercedes Narcisse, in relation to creating training  
14 on trauma-informed care for persons serving refugees,  
15 asylees, asylum seekers, and migrants.

16 We will also be voting on proposed Resolution  
17 459-A, sponsored by Council Member Amanda Farías,  
18 regarding the federal electronic verification system  
19 known as E-Verify.

20 I want to thank my Council colleagues for joining  
21 us here today.

22 New York City has been welcoming immigrants for  
23 its entire history, and has received tens of  
24 thousands of asylum seekers and migrants since April  
25 of last year. This council has sought to welcome our

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2 newest New Yorkers with compassion, dignity, and  
3 care. Many individuals arriving in New York have  
4 undergone harrowing circumstances in their countries  
5 of origin and on their journeys to the United States  
6 traversing dangerous terrain on foot while fleeing  
7 persecution and other forms of adversity. New York  
8 City service providers must be prepared to serve  
9 individuals who have experienced trauma.

10 Proposed Introduction Number 1084-A will address  
11 this need. This bill would require The Department of  
12 Health and Mental Hygiene [DOHMH] to include in its  
13 training on trauma-informed care appropriate  
14 information on refugee, asylee, asylum seeker, and  
15 migrant experiences. The bill would also require  
16 DOHMH to determine who of those serving refugees,  
17 asylees, asylum seekers, and migrants should be  
18 offered the training and offer it them.

19 The bill will require city agencies to offer  
20 initial and ongoing training to all providers who  
21 regularly engage with asylum seekers on recognizing  
22 signs of trauma exposure; understanding common  
23 behaviors of people exposed to trauma; and applying  
24 trauma-informed principles for interacting.

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2 I am grateful to Council Member Narcisse for  
3 sponsoring this critical legislation. As we continue  
4 to welcome new neighbors in our city, we have  
5 endeavored to help tens of thousands of asylum  
6 seekers who are escaping not only persecution but  
7 also economic collapse. As they have done for  
8 centuries, people are coming to New York City to  
9 peruse a better life for themselves and their  
10 families.

11 Unfortunately, the E-Verify requirement  
12 needlessly interferes with workers' ability to  
13 realize their American dream. Proposed Resolution  
14 459-A, calls upon the New York State Legislature to  
15 pass, and the Governor to sign, A.568/S.1802  
16 prohibiting municipalities from requiring all  
17 employers to check prospective employees' work  
18 authorization status by using the federal electronic  
19 verification system and prohibiting employers from  
20 checking the employment authorization status of an  
21 existing employee or an applicant who has not been  
22 offered employment. I thank Council Member Farías for  
23 sponsoring this important resolution.

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2 I look forward to the vote on this legislation  
3 today, and I look forward to the support these bills  
4 would provide our newest New Yorkers.

5 I would like to acknowledge that we have been  
6 joined by Council Member Krishnan, Council Member  
7 Ung, Council Member Carmen De La Rosa, Council Member  
8 Narcisse, Council Member Moya, and Council Member  
9 Sanchez on Zoom.

10 I would like to thank Nicole Catá and Rebecca  
11 Barilla from central staff for their work on putting  
12 this hearing together. I would also like to thank my  
13 staff: Chief of Staff, Nora Brickner; Legislative  
14 Director, Alexander Liao; and everyone working in the  
15 background to make this hearing run smoothly.

16 I will now turn it over to Council Member  
17 Narcisse to provide a statement on her bill.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Good morning, I would  
19 like thank Chair Hanif and the members of the  
20 Committee on Immigration for considering Introduction  
21 1084-A.

22 Introduction 1084-A holds the promise of  
23 fostering a more inclusive and emphatic New York City  
24 for those who have sought refuge and asylum within  
25 our borders. This legislation signifies our

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2 commitment to provide essential training in trauma-  
3 informed care for individuals serving refugees,  
4 asylees, asylum seekers, and migrants.

5 I just cannot imagine folks walking on their feet  
6 for miles, being traumatized all along the way, and  
7 when they reach here we cannot provide the best  
8 quality care for them and offer them an opportunity  
9 to get on their feet.

10 This bill is recognizing that those who have  
11 faced adversity deserve not only our protection but  
12 also our understanding and support. No matter what  
13 one's feelings may be on the border issue and the  
14 complex challenges of housing migrants, we can all  
15 agree that the humanitarian thing to do is to ensure  
16 basic health care needs are met for these  
17 individuals.

18 This bill aligns with our shared values of  
19 compassion and empathy. I urge committee members to  
20 consider the profound impact this bill can have on  
21 the lives of those who have experienced trauma. By  
22 equipping service providers with the knowledge and  
23 the tools to offer compassionate care, we are taking  
24 a significant step toward building a more resilient,  
25 caring, and united city.

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2 I would like to express my gratitude to all of  
3 the wonderful staff who worked on this bill with us -  
4 and most importantly, Saye Joseph, my Chief of Staff  
5 and Legislative & Budget Director.

6 This bill is very important, not only because I  
7 am a nurse, but because I learned to care by coming  
8 from Haiti to this land. I thank God for our  
9 opportunities. This is what we do in New York City,  
10 we care for each other.

11 So, I want to say thank you in advance to all of  
12 my colleagues. As a health care professional, I get  
13 to work in my community, and I see firsthand how  
14 someone's mental health can be devastating, not just  
15 to the person themselves, but to all of their  
16 neighbors, their friends, and their families. And,  
17 like I said yesterday, we cannot be pennywise and  
18 dollar foolish. When those folks come here, they are  
19 looking for opportunities. So, let's be the caring  
20 city that we should be.

21 Thank you, Chair. Together we can create a safer  
22 and more compassionate New York City at large, so  
23 thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON HANIF: Thank you, Council Member  
25 Narcisse.



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COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

I will now turn it over to the clerk for the roll call.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, everyone, William Martin Committee Clerk, roll call vote for the Committee on Immigration, Proposed Introduction Number 1084-A.

Chair Hanif?

CHAIRPERSON HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: [NO RESPONSE]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 6 in the  
3 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and [BACKGROUND  
4 NOISE]... With the vote of 6 in the affirmative, 0  
5 in the negative, and no abstentions, this item has  
6 been adopted by the Committee.

7 CHAIRPERSON HANIF: Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: We are going to leave the roll  
9 open momentarily by the request of the chair.

10 So, William Martin, Committee Clerk, point of  
11 clarification: the roll call Committee on Immigration  
12 was for Proposed Introduction 1084-A and Resolution  
13 459-A, thank you.

14 Continuation roll call Committee on Immigration,  
15 Proposed Introduction Number 1084-A and Resolution  
16 459-A, Council Member Joseph?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: The final vote is now 7 in the  
19 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions.  
20 Madam Chair, that is a full committee.

21 CHAIRPERSON HANIF: Thank you.

22 [GAVEL SOUND] [GAVELING OUT]

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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, 2023