

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  
VOTE\*

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Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Start: 10:42 a.m.

Recess: 10:49 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Alexa Avilés, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher

Gale A. Brewer

Carmen N. De La Rosa

Shahana K. Hanif

Rita C. Joseph

Shekar Krishnan

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION  
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2 SERGEANT CUZNER: This is a microphone check for  
3 the Committee on Immigration; located in the  
4 Chambers, on March 12, 2025 by Pat Cuzner, check,  
5 check.

6 (PAUSE)

7 SERGEANT CUZNER: This is a microphone check for  
8 the Committee on Immigration; located in the  
9 Chambers, on March 12, 2025 by Pat Cuzner, check,  
10 check.

11 (PAUSE)

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, good morning, and  
13 welcome to the New York City Council Vote on the  
14 Committee on Immigration. At this time, please  
15 silence all electronics and do not approach the dais  
16 I repeat, please do not approach the dais. Thank you  
17 for your cooperation.

18 Chair, you may begin.

19 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: (GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING IN)

20 Good morning, this meeting is being called to  
21 order. I am Council Member Alexa Avilés, Chair of the  
22 Committee on Immigration.

23 I would like to begin by thanking my committee  
24 colleagues who have joined me here today: Council  
25 Member Hanif, Council Member Krishnan, Council Member

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2 Joseph, Council Member Bottcher, Council Member  
3 Brewer, and Council Member De La Rosa.

4 Today the Committee will be voting on Proposed  
5 Introduction Number 216-A; Proposed Resolution 714-A;  
6 and Resolution 717.

7 Proposed Introduction Number 216-A, sponsored by  
8 Council Member Shahana Hanif, improves the  
9 application process for the New York City identity  
10 card or IDNYC.

11 These improvements include showing appointments  
12 at each location for their earliest available date  
13 and time on an online appointment scheduling system,  
14 developing an annual training program for IDNYC  
15 employees on the application process— excuse me one  
16 second. Members, can you... thank you— very loud—  
17 providing for adequate in-person application  
18 appointments to match the demand of IDNYC,  
19 establishing a pilot program to permit same day and  
20 walk-in appointments at certain IDNYC service  
21 enrollment centers, and providing a process in which  
22 a supervisor is available to review documentation  
23 that has been declined during an application  
24 appointment for an IDNYC.  
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2 The IDNYC program has been an incredible resource  
3 for all New York City residents regardless of age,  
4 gender, identity, national origin, or citizenship  
5 status. It provides a host of benefits to cardholders  
6 and functions as an official form of identification  
7 in New York City. It is accepted by city agencies to  
8 access services and programs, can be used as a  
9 library card, and used to open a bank or credit union  
10 account with participating financial institutions.

11 Ensuring this card is available to all New York  
12 residents is necessary, and this bill aids in  
13 ensuring it is available.

14 Preconsidered Resolution 714-A, also sponsored by  
15 Council Member Shahana Hanif, calls on the New York  
16 State Legislature to reintroduce and pass, and the  
17 Governor to sign A.3506/S.2235, also known as the New  
18 York for All Act, which would prohibit and regulate  
19 the discovery and disclosure of immigration status by  
20 New York state and local government entities.

21 Resolution 717, sponsored by Council Member  
22 Crystal Hudson, calls on the New York State  
23 Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign  
24 A.270/S.141, also known as the Access to  
25 Representation Act, which establishes the right to

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2 legal counsel in immigration court proceedings and  
3 provides for the administration thereof.

4       These bills, all of which I have co-sponsored,  
5 call to improve protections and resources for our  
6 immigrant communities.

7       The Trump administration has made it abundantly  
8 clear that they will do everything in their power to  
9 detain, deport, undocumented immigrants which would  
10 be devastating for the over 470,000 immigrants in New  
11 York City— who do not have immigrant legal status—  
12 and have lived and worked and built our city for  
13 many, many years and those who are part of mixed-  
14 status families.

15       As the Trump administration's xenophobic agenda  
16 continues to close any pathway to citizenship, our  
17 immigrant communities are becoming increasingly  
18 vulnerable to detention, deportation actions from the  
19 federal government.

20       The rhetoric from the Trump administration  
21 painting undocumented immigrants as criminals is  
22 overwhelmingly disturbing, irresponsible, horrible—  
23 I can't think of— so many words I can say— and  
24 attempts to let those inhumane characterizations sway  
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2 policies in a city where nearly 40% of our residents  
3 are foreign born, and we will not accept that.

4 We must do everything in our power to protect our  
5 most vulnerable residents, and that includes  
6 increasing the protections for immigrant New Yorkers  
7 to seek care and city services without fear,  
8 improving access to legal services, encouraging  
9 access to identification for all residents, and being  
10 able to speak out against the heinous actions of the  
11 Trump administration against our neighbors.

12 New York must be a leader against the growing  
13 threats to immigrants, and this legislation should  
14 only be the beginning of those efforts.

15 Thank you to the committee staff for their work  
16 on this hearing, including Nicole Catá, Rebecca  
17 Barilla, Carolina Gil, and Florentine Kabore. Thank  
18 you to my staff, Chief of Staff, Edward Cerna; our  
19 Deputy Chief of Staff, Christina Bottego; and our  
20 Legislative Fellow, Cate Byrne; and everyone working  
21 in the background to make this hearing run smoothly.

22 I will now turn it over... Oh, I think I would  
23 recommend a vote from all of my colleagues as the  
24 Clerk would call the roll.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,  
3 Committee Clerk, roll call vote for the Committee on  
4 Immigration; all items are coupled.

5 Chair Avilés?

6 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: I proudly vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: You got it.

14 Council Member De La Rosa?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye, and thank you,  
18 colleagues.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 7 in the  
22 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,  
23 all items have been adopted by the Committee. Madam,  
24 Chair, that is a full committee.

25 CHAIRPERSON AVILÉS: (GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING OUT)



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 March 29, 2025