



April 30, 2014

**Testimony of Mindy Tarlow, Director
Mayor's Office of Operations**

**Before the
New York City Council Committee on Immigration**

**Hearing on Intro. No. 253
To Create a New York City Identity Card Program**

Good Morning Chairman Menchaca and Members of the Committee, Speaker Mark Viverito, colleagues in government, and members of the public. My name is Mindy Tarlow, and I am the Director of the Mayor's Office of Operations ("Operations"). On behalf of the Administration, I would like to thank you, Chairman Menchaca and Councilmember Dromm, for introducing this vital legislation and for inviting me to testify at this hearing.

At the direction of Mayor de Blasio, who has made the creation of a Municipal ID a signature priority of this administration, my office has been working closely with Commissioner Agarwal of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs ("MOIA") and numerous City agencies to prepare for the timely and effective implementation of this initiative should the Council approve it. The Municipal ID will be an ID for all. Every single New Yorker benefits by having a government-issued photo identification card that will be broadly recognized by NYC Government entities and private establishments. We support development of an identification card program that can be both widely utilized by New Yorkers of all backgrounds and easily accessed by marginalized populations.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Mayor's Office of Operations, we are responsible for performance management and accountability across all City agencies; we are responsible for producing the Mayor's Management Report. Under the de Blasio Administration additional functions have been moved underneath Operations including the Center for Economic Opportunity and the Mayor's Office of Data Analytics so that we can support the Mayor's equality agenda. Finally, Operations undertakes a range of cross-agency initiatives to facilitate the effective implementation of citywide projects. We are particularly focused on helping to realize the Mayor's priority initiatives, such as the Municipal ID.

Before I discuss our planning around the Municipal ID, I would like to tell you about my own experience regarding the importance of expanding access to government identification for marginalized populations. Prior to joining the de Blasio Administration, I spent nearly two decades as the founding CEO and Executive Director of the Center for Employment Opportunities. The Center for Employment Opportunities is a New York City-based national organization that is exclusively dedicated to connecting recently incarcerated individuals to employment. One of the often overlooked barriers to reintegration is the lack of proper documentation. My years at the Center for Employment Opportunities vividly demonstrated to me how important the securing of government-issued photo identification can be in helping people start down the

pathway to legitimate employment and securing basic, essential services. I saw it every day.

Program Approach:

This Administration is committed to helping all New Yorkers, including marginalized populations, access the proposed Municipal ID. Populations such as disconnected young adults, seniors, homeless individuals, undocumented immigrants, and formerly incarcerated persons are some of the key demographic groups that have historically retained government issued photo identification at lower rates than the population at large – and the Municipal ID can and will vastly improve this.

We support creating an enrollment model for the Municipal ID that will readily facilitate access for all New Yorkers and incorporate fraud prevention and security protocols to ensure the integrity of the identification card. Should the Council approve this legislation, we support a Municipal ID enrollment model that designates multiple sites in each borough where New Yorkers can apply for the Municipal ID card.

Intake

As Council Members Menchaca and Dromm have laid out in this bill, the process for applying for a Municipal ID card, and demonstrating proof of identity and residency will be similar to the Department of Motor Vehicles model. Individuals will be required to demonstrate evidence of their identity and residency by providing acceptable documents. We support a system of weighted values for documentation similar to what is used by the DMV.

The City would leverage existing facilities as intake centers, looking for sites in convenient locations across a range of agencies covering all five boroughs.

We propose having two types of sites where people can sign up for the Municipal ID. “Active” sites would be broadly promoted as places the general public can visit to sign up for the Municipal ID. “Passive” sites would include agencies where many members of the public already go to receive services and are likely to already have brought necessary proof of identity and residency with them.

Fraud Prevention:

We are working closely with NYPD, other law enforcement entities, government agencies that issue identification cards, and cities from around the country who have

implemented similar programs to ensure we are incorporating all appropriate fraud prevention and security procedures.

Design of the Municipal ID Card would be inspired by DMV-style government issued photo identification cards – but with a distinct New York City branding. We would embed a full array of security features into the card, such as holographic laminates, special cardstock material, and engraved text.

Records Retention

We are highly sensitive to the issue of document retention and the concerns that have been raised by Council Members and advocates alike. This administration is emphatically committed to protecting the privacy of the information gathered from this proposed initiative and particularly attuned to safeguarding any and all information that could potentially hint at the immigration status of a cardholder. We would employ every tool at our disposal to guarantee protection of information submitted by applicants.

Legislative Considerations:

I believe that there is generally broad consensus among the Administration, Council Members, and advocates about the Municipal ID initiative and I would like to commend the lead sponsors of the legislation, Council Members Menchaca and Dromm as well as Speaker Mark Viverito, for crafting this bill. I would, however, like to suggest a few items be revisited.

I would strongly encourage the Council to consider allowing for more flexibility in the administration of the Municipal ID initiative by mayoral agencies. Under this model, the Mayor's Office could capitalize on the backend infrastructure of the Human Resources Administration (HRA) to ensure the successful implementation of the Municipal ID. My office, The Mayor's Office of Operations, conducted an analysis comparing all City agencies that could perform this backend function (including our own) and determined that HRA is best positioned to undertake the backend responsibilities necessary to successfully implement and operate the Municipal ID initiative. HRA has the most relevant expertise in issuing identification cards at scale including reviewing and verifying the authenticity of the identification. Considering the aggressive timeline to make the Municipal ID available to the public this calendar year, HRA's procurement infrastructure and administrative support will cost-efficiently and swiftly get this program up and running. HRA would support day-to-day administration of budget, procurement, and general backend office functionality. Regardless of HRA's heavy involvement on

the back end, only HRA clients would be able to apply for the Municipal ID at HRA locations. (And of course HRA clients can also apply for the card at any of the sites where the general public can apply.) HRA would not be associated with the public branding of this initiative.

I also want to emphasize that Mayor de Blasio, Deputy Mayor Barrios-Paoli, and HRA Commissioner Steve Banks have committed HRA to a mission of fighting inequality and poverty every single day, and the Municipal ID is a key initiative that will help HRA realize that essential mission. My team and MOIA have worked closely with HRA throughout the Municipal ID planning process. The senior leadership at the agency is deeply committed to this initiative and supporting the communities who will benefit from it. I believe the Council and the Administration are equally committed to the successful implementation of the Municipal ID and I hope you will consider permitting HRA to conduct the backend office functionality that can best position us to realize that shared objective.

I would also like to suggest removing section §3-139 on penalties from the legislation. The conduct being regulated in this section is already captured by several provisions in the penal law.

One additional concern about Intro 253 that I would like to raise relates to the availability of applications and intake of the Municipal ID. The legislation indicates the Administration would make “Applications for such card available for pick-up and submission at any agency or office where there is substantial contact with the public.” This implies that any City facility that serves the public would be a site where New Yorkers could apply for the Municipal ID. This would represent thousands of locations around New York City and it would be logistically infeasible and cost prohibitive to implement this model if interpreted literally. We strongly suggest that the Council work with us to identify the best sites to offer intake for the Municipal ID so that we can navigate the security, cost, technology, and staffing that must be addressed at each and every Municipal ID site.

The de Blasio administration is enthusiastically committed to the swift, secure, and successful implementation of the Municipal ID initiative. The Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Mayor’s Office of Operations will be directly and intimately engaged in the planning and implementation of the Municipal ID and we look forward to partnering with individual Members of the City Council and the many advocates and supporters

across the City to generate robust public awareness and tremendous citywide take up of the Municipal ID. Thank you again for this opportunity to testify on the Municipal ID and it is now my privilege to turn things over to my new colleague and friend, Nisha Agarwal, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. I'll also be available to answer any questions you may have after her testimony.



April 30, 2014

Testimony of Nisha Agarwal, Commissioner
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Before the
New York City Council Committee on Immigration

Hearing on Intro. No. 253
To Create a New York City Identity Card Program



Good morning. Thank you, Mindy, for the introduction and for so clearly laying out the groundwork on the Municipal ID. Thank you again to Chairman Menchaca and Councilmember Dromm, members of the Committee, Speaker Mark-Viverito and Council for advancing such a critical issue. My name is Nisha Agarwal and I am the Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. I welcome the opportunity to speak further about the Municipal ID.

As the Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), my role is to advance our City chartered mandate to work with the Mayor and Council to create policies and programs that improve the lives of immigrant New Yorkers. This mandate clearly encompasses today's legislation – for which we commend the Council's leadership – and Mayor de Blasio's charge to us of ensuring the creation and solid implementation of the Municipal ID card. My Office's work also includes collaborating across the administration to support programs that bolster access to services and well-being for all New Yorkers, whether their immigrant ancestry is recent or generations ago. In that light, we are clear that the Municipal ID is a ground-breaking program that will reach beyond immigrants to all of our communities.

Before I discuss the program in more detail, I would like to speak briefly about my own professional experience which has centered on increasing access to services for marginalized populations, including but not limited to immigrants. Before I joined the De Blasio administration, I worked on increasing access to legal services for immigrant New Yorkers and improving language access in pharmacies. As a civil rights lawyer, I worked on cases and campaigns to ensure that all New Yorkers, regardless of race, citizenship, language or disability, are able to access all our City has to offer on equal terms. Recently, I was part of the Center for Popular Democracy's research effort to study the implementation of municipal identification cards across the country, as a vehicle to understand how our city could learn and improve upon other cities' programs.

As such, increasing access to our city's services, attractions and spaces to more New Yorkers who currently struggle to obtain a basic entryway – a form of government identification – is a natural continuation of my work over the years and a key aspect of MOIA's leadership on issues of equality and unity. It's our view that the proposed municipal identification card will serve as a unifying force across many communities, providing valid identification to many who have lacked access to identification while providing meaningful benefits to those who already have access to identification. It is also our view that the Municipal ID would allow more New Yorkers of all backgrounds to more easily access City services, public and private programming, and increase participation in our local economy by accessing banking and financial empowerment services. Of course, part of our commitment is a response to the very harsh



**Mayor's Office of
Immigrant Affairs**

realities faced by undocumented immigrants – estimated to number approximately 500,000 in NYC— who face numerous obstacles as a result of not having government issued identification. For example, undocumented immigrants and other communities without identification may fear law enforcement; are often afraid to report housing and labor violations; or have a harder time signing leases and opening bank accounts or visiting their children's schools. I want to emphasize that these obstacles are not faced by our undocumented communities alone – it is a real issue for many marginalized communities such as our elders, victims of domestic violence, runaway and other disconnected youth, the disabled, transgendered individuals and those who are re-entering our society after incarceration. In other words, it is clear that many communities beyond immigrants will benefit from the Municipal ID and, indeed, to avoid a reality in which the card is viewed as an immigrant card, it is crucial that the card has widespread appeal and we support a program that meets this goal.

Benefits and Program Support

One of the ways we will meet this goal is to build many benefits into the Municipal ID so that the card is meaningful to all New Yorkers. We are still in the early stages of planning for the Municipal ID, but I can share with you some of the benefits that we support. To begin, the Municipal ID should be broadly recognized and accepted by City agencies. We would like to ensure, for example, that parents will be able to use the Municipal ID to gain entry into their child's school. Our goal is also that the Municipal ID will enable New Yorkers who previously lacked government-issued identification to better access private sector services. For example, our hope is that the Municipal ID will serve as the government issued photo documentation needed to get a bank account, so New Yorkers can avoid predatory financial services like check cashers.

These benefits and others will assist communities that have been needlessly marginalized in their day-to-day interactions with the City. But, again, I want to emphasize that the Municipal ID is an identification card that will benefit all New Yorkers, even those with government-issued photo ID. If this legislation is enacted, we would work with City agencies and private sector entities across the five boroughs to explore how we might embed the Municipal ID with benefits and discounts at educational, arts and cultural institutions, restaurants and other small businesses, transportation and an array of other services. Importantly, even after the Municipal ID program has launched, it would be important to continue working to expand the suite of benefits available to card holders, to ensure that this is a program that grows over the years. We are open to hearing ideas from the Council and others on additional benefits and services that could be attached to the card.



Beyond the benefits of the Municipal ID, I'd like to share our ongoing efforts to engage communities and learn from other cities' experiences. To this end, we have been hearing and learning from three layers of advisors – (1) community advocates representing diverse communities in New York, (2) other municipalities who have implemented similar programs across the country, and (3) our governmental partners to prepare to support the program.

On the community level, we have been in active conversation with the Arab American Association of NY, the New York Legal Assistance Group, Make the Road NY, the New Economy Project, Faith in NY, Center for Popular Democracy, Picture the Homeless, Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights, the New York Civil Liberties Union, the New York Immigration Coalition, and many other leaders from the advocacy, business and faith communities. These groups, along with many others, have been extremely helpful in informing our thinking. In terms of other municipalities, we have learned from the experiences of Oakland, Los Angeles and San Francisco in California, as well as New Haven in Connecticut. While the scale in these other cities is not comparable to New York, we have gleaned many important lessons that would inform our effort here. On the governmental side, we have spoken to the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles at the State level, governmental partners such as CUNY and all three of NYC's library systems and many City Agencies, including the Department of Homeless Services, Department of Corrections, the New York Police Department, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, Department of Cultural Affairs, Department of Finance, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Finance, Department of Consumer Affairs, Taxi and Limousine Commission, Small Business Services, Department of Transportation, Department of Parks and Recreation and others. Our Agencies have been incredibly committed to the success of this proposed program and I have no doubt that robust partnerships with our Agencies would be at the heart of the Municipal ID.

Outreach

We are clear that widespread adoption is critical for the card to be most meaningful and have preliminary ideas for an expansive outreach strategy to reach every neighborhood through a citywide campaign. For any outreach effort on Municipal ID, MOIA would work closely with the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit and Operations, alongside our trusted community partners who have proposed working closely with us to accomplish our shared goals of seeing the Municipal ID get into the hands of as many New Yorkers as possible. We would look to partner closely with the Department of Education, City Agencies, and others with strong and widespread touch-points all across the five boroughs. We would also plan to leverage the capacity of our Agencies and the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, who already have relationships in the community, to provide accurate information on the program and help



**Mayor's Office of
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steer residents to efficiently accessing the card. We would anticipate promoting the card through social media, community and educational institutions, famous New Yorkers, foreign consulates, faith-based institutions and beyond. And, we look forward to the prospect of working with your local offices to help your constituents get the Municipal ID and make the program a resounding success.

Thank you again for inviting us to provide testimony today. I welcome any questions, now or any time after the hearing.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT GALE A. BREWER
TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE OF IMMIGRATION ON
THE CREATION OF A NYC IDENTITY CARD PROGRAM
APRIL 30, 2014**

Thank you, Chair Menchaca, for the opportunity to testify today regarding City Council's proposal to create a New York City identity card program.

Many immigrants come to New York City because it is a place of opportunities. However, some of the City's most basic services and opportunities are becoming increasingly difficult to access, not only for immigrants, but for the vulnerable populations among our midst who do not have documents that can readily prove their identity and residency. As a result, everyday necessities are being reduced to privileges granted only to those who have proper IDs. These can include opening and maintaining a bank account, accessing City services and benefits, signing a lease, traveling in and out of New York City, and picking up packages from the post office.

I support the Council's effort to create municipal IDs as a way to remove barriers for all New Yorkers—not only immigrants, but also other constituent groups that are often overlooked in the conversation. They include those who do not have stable mailing addresses such as the homeless and foster youths; individuals such as older adults who rely on fixed incomes and may not be able to afford the \$105-200 plus additional fees for a passport or \$80 for a driver's license; and people with mental health issues, disabilities and conviction records who already face hurdles to accessing City resources and services.

The municipal ID card has the potential to benefit a wide spectrum of New Yorkers who fit into one or more underserved groups including the over 500,000 who are undocumented, over 30,000 homeless adults, over 800,000 without a bank or credit union account, and just under 1 million seniors, about half of whom are foreign-born.¹

Creating a municipal ID will help the vulnerable throughout the City to engage in all areas of life as New Yorkers. To this end, New York City's municipal ID program must be developed and implemented in a thoughtful way that avoids the many pitfalls other cities already using municipal IDs have encountered. I submit the following recommendations to City Council and the Mayor's Office of Operations:

¹ Sources: 2010 U.S. Census, NYC Department of Planning, NYC Department of Consumer Affairs, and Center for An Urban Future.

- **Municipal IDs must not become the *de facto* form of identification for the undocumented.** The intent behind the ID is not to single out and stigmatize a subgroup of New Yorkers. To prevent this, City Council and the Mayor's Office of Operations must ensure municipal IDs are useful for all New Yorkers. Many other cities have undertaken this effort with success: San Francisco's ID card serves as an acceptable form of identification for opening checking accounts, offers discounts on tourist attractions, and can be used as a library card. Oakland's ID card doubles as a debit card. Los Angeles is looking into linking its ID card with the local transit system. Closer to home, the ID card in New Jersey's Mercer County is recognized by "law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, the board of social services, courts, recreational locations, libraries, and retail establishments," according to a report by the Center for Popular Democracy.
- **Municipal IDs will not have their intended effect without NYPD support.** I am pleased that the proposed legislation requires "all city agencies [to] accept [the municipal ID] as proof of identity and residency," which will include the NYPD and the DOE. The onus for making NYC's municipal ID acceptable to law enforcement agencies will in part fall on the Mayor's Office of Operations to ensure the ID is fraud-resistant and contains multiple layers of protection such as watermark, magnetic stripe, and holograms. I look forward to this added resource that will reduce the number of New Yorkers being detained for lack of proper ID.
- **Municipal IDs must not be too costly to obtain.** Municipal IDs must be affordable to New Yorkers. City Council and the Mayor's Office of Operations should consider a tiered fee schedule. In Oakland, seniors receive a \$5 discount from the card's regular cost of \$15; in Richmond, CA, ID cards are \$15 for the general public but \$10 for the low-income population.² I believe implementing a similar sliding scale of fees will encourage broad adoption of New York City's municipal ID cards.
- **Municipal IDs must not be difficult to obtain.** I applaud City Council for including language assistance as a requirement under Intro 253. When the initiative reaches its implementation stage, I urge the Mayor's Office of Operations to make language access widely available to assist those with Limited English Proficiency. The city has many community-based organizations that serve New York City's diverse immigrant populations. Engaging these groups for outreach and education will ensure those who can most benefit from municipal IDs will know how to obtain one.

In closing, I want to voice my support for the creation of New York City Municipal ID Cards. It is an important effort that is worth doing well. Many cities in the country and around the world have already taken steps to turn ID cards into a safe, widely accepted and widely used multiservice tool. I ask City Council and the Mayor's Office to create the same resource for all New Yorkers.

² Center for Popular Democracy, *Who We Are: Municipal ID card as a strategy to promote belonging and shared community identity*.

FOR THE RECORD



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
SCOTT M. STRINGER

TESTIMONY OF NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER
IN SUPPORT OF INT. 253-2014

BEFORE MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION
OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 30, 2014

Thank you Chairperson Menchaca and the members of the Committee on Immigration for holding this hearing today on Int. 253, introduced by Councilmember Daniel Dromm and Chairperson Menchaca, requiring New York City to create its own municipal identification card program. Thousands of our friends, neighbors, and colleagues, including many undocumented immigrants, currently lack a government-issued ID. I strongly support the creation of an NYC ID that would allow all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, to secure an official, government-issued ID that would provide access to a variety of important city services.

Proof of identity is a basic necessity that many Americans take for granted. Right now the lack of government-issued ID has a series of damaging consequences on our communities—from individuals being reluctant to seek help from law enforcement to families finding themselves unable to open a checking or savings account.

Without access to the financial system, many working class New Yorkers have little choice but to give up a significant portion of their earnings simply to cash their paychecks. In fact, the average unbanked worker not only spends nearly \$40,000 throughout his or her life just to cash paychecks, but may also fall victim to short-term, high-interest “payday” loans offered at check cashing outlets that contribute to getting caught in an endless cycle of debt.

Furthermore, because undocumented immigrants lacking basic banking services are often forced to carry large amounts of cash, they are more vulnerable to crime, particularly since criminals know this population is reluctant to seek help from the police. As a result, it is critical that we work closely with the New York City Police Department to ensure that the municipal ID is accepted as a valid form of ID during police encounters and in the reporting of complaints.

New York City’s commitment to establishing a universal municipal ID card follows a path taken by other U.S. municipalities, including New Haven, Oakland and San Francisco. We can learn many lessons from the experiences of these sister cities, including just how vital it is that we make a concerted effort to have as many New Yorkers sign up for this card as possible—whether citizens or non-citizens, immigrants or native New Yorkers.

The best way to convince all New Yorkers to sign up is for the proposed ID card to have diverse functionality. The card should serve as a gateway to a variety of services and experiences that make up urban life. As noted above, one critical use is to improve access to financial services for the unbanked. The City can work with financial institutions to encourage banks to accept the card as a form of identification that can be used to open bank accounts.

Besides improving financial connectivity, our card should grant access to the wondrous world of the New York City public library system. Indeed, while other cities have integrated library cards into their municipal IDs, New York is uniquely situated to benefit from such a program since we have an opportunity to work with the three separate systems (NYPL, Queens, and Brooklyn) to allow New Yorkers to use the municipal identity card at branches throughout the five boroughs.

In order to further the widespread use of the municipal ID card and reduce the potential for it to be a badge of undocumented status, the City should also consider offering the municipal ID’s to its workforce as a substitute for the ones that City workers currently use.

Lastly, the card should be flexible enough to allow for new functionality in the future that offers added convenience to New Yorkers. For instance, the City could explore:

- Working with local merchant associations and business improvement districts to offer discounts to cardholders in an effort to promote commerce and help small businesses;
- Partnering with banks and credit unions to make the ID card double as an affordable, low-fee debit card; and
- Collaborating with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to incorporate next-generation fare payment into the municipal identity card, as the City of Boston has done with its One Card.

Above all, our municipal ID will serve as badge of civic pride for all City residents—a symbolic statement of welcome and solidarity to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status.

I want to once again thank Chairperson Menchaca and Councilmember Dromm for introducing this piece of legislation and for holding this very valuable hearing today. New York City has always been both a city of immigrants and a leader in municipal innovation. This hearing today allows us to continue both legacies. I strongly support Intro. 253 and I look forward to working with all of you to create the finest municipal ID system in the nation.



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

TESTIMONY OF DEPUTY BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT DIANA REYNA,
ON BEHALF OF BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT ERIC L. ADAMS

New York City Council – Committee on Immigration

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Good afternoon to all the members of the New York City Council present here today. I am Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Diana Reyna and, on behalf of Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, I am here to express strong support for Intro 253, a proposal to create a municipal identification card for all New York City residents.

I want to commend all Council Members Daniel Dromm, Carlos Menchaca, and all the members of the City Council who are sponsoring this bill, for taking a giant step forward to making access to New York City's dynamic and robust civic culture a goal within reach for all of our city's residents. Thank you also to Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for her staunch support of this proposal. And of course, thank you to our Mayor, Bill de Blasio, for his unwavering leadership to making this program a reality.

I also want to thank the tireless efforts of the many groups and organizations who have organized and advocated for this proposal to become law. There are far too many of you to name, but your dedication and passion for this legislation is deeply appreciated by the Borough President, by me and by the 2.5 million residents of Brooklyn for whom your efforts will have a meaningful impact.

Why do we need a municipal ID card program?

The answer to this question is simple. A municipal ID card program will allow everyone who lives in New York City to participate in the civic life of our city.

Do you want to open a bank account? You need identification for that.

Do you want to apply for a library card? You need identification for that.

Do you want to visit your child's school and talk to their teacher? You need identification for that.

And what if you need to have an interaction with a police officer? You need identification for that, too.

Each and every day, the gates of New York City's civic life are opened for those who can prove their identity and display a photo ID.

And for those who don't have an ID card, those gates remain tightly shut, preventing those individuals from enjoying the same privileges, opportunities, and services available to others who are fortunate enough to have ID.

There are many communities among us who can't access these basic necessities such as banks, libraries, schools and the police department. Lacking an ID card affects the countless members of New York City's immigrant communities, the growing number of homeless people in our city, children in the foster care system, the elderly, formerly incarcerated individuals and those who are disabled or mentally ill.

It is not just vulnerable populations who benefit from a municipal ID program. There is an enormous benefit for ALL New Yorkers in having everyone share in the civic fabric of New York City life. Our communities grow stronger and our city becomes One only when all of our neighbors can enjoy the multitude of opportunities that participation in everyday civic life affords.

In my home borough of Brooklyn, 47% of our residents speak a language other than English in their home. Today, there are nearly one million foreign born residents of Brooklyn, with untold tens of thousands of them living in the shadows because they are undocumented. Today, there are more than 300,000 senior citizens living in Brooklyn today, many of whom need but do not have a photo ID as part of their personal identification documents. Today, nearly 600,000 youth under 18 years of age in Brooklyn could benefit from having an ID card to open their first bank account, begin their first job and register for civic services.

The potential that these ID cards can have on the daily lives of Brooklyn's 2.5 million residents is enormous. That is why Borough President Adams and I hope that our office can partner with the City Council and the Mayor's Office to allow our residents to get their IDs processed at the center of our borough's civic universe - Brooklyn Borough Hall.

What greater symbol could there be for making access to civic life a priority for all of us in government than to use Brooklyn's oldest public building as a hub for this pioneering initiative? Borough President Adams is eager to expand the opportunities for our residents to get that access by using their own borough hall as the gateway to these opportunities.

I return to the question I first asked when I started my remarks. Why do we need a municipal ID card program?

Because we WANT to improve the financial literacy of our citizens by encouraging them to open up bank accounts.

Because we WANT our immigrant communities to learn the beauty of the English language by applying for a library card and reading from the great canons of literature.

Because we WANT to strengthen our schools by giving parents the ability to walk into their children's schools and talk to their teachers.

Because we WANT to make our city safer by encouraging our residents to trust our police officers and engage with them without fear of recrimination or discrimination.

When we achieve all these things, it isn't just immigrants, or the homeless, or the elderly, or former incarcerated, or our youth who benefit. We all do. Each and every one of us. And this proposal will make New York City a better, stronger, and more vibrant city.

STATEMENT OF ASSEMBLYMAN FELIX W. ORTIZ

The 51st Assembly District is one of the most diverse in the state. 52% of the residents are of Hispanic origin, 18% are Asian American, 6% are African American and 22% are white. Sunset Park, the core of the district, brings together people of all nationalities while also including communities as diverse as Borough Park (with a large Orthodox Jewish population), Bay Ridge, Cobble Hill, Red Hook and Park Slope.

The ID program would serve a half-million residents, regardless of their immigration status -- making it easier for them to report a crime, lease an apartment, open a bank account and even borrow a library book.

Even if ID cards are merely a temporary solution for undocumented immigrants, the cards represent a step forward.

I am the sponsor of Assembly Bill 8498. This bill would allow persons who provide satisfactory proof of their presence in the United States as authorized under federal law--but who are not eligible for a social security account number-- to be eligible to receive a driver's license.

Under existing federal law, the Secretary of Homeland Security has issued a directive allowing certain undocumented individuals who meet the criteria for relief from removal from the United States or from entering into removal proceedings to be eligible to receive deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. With enactment of this legislation, New York would become one of the growing number of states to allow non-citizens to legally drive. At least ten states and the District of Columbia all have laws in place allowing immigrants to legally drive.

Supporters of this measure include police chiefs associations and insurance authorities; all cite increased transparency and safety.

Obviously, New York City ID cards align with providing non-resident ID cards. I'll touch on the consulate issue in a moment.

I serve on the Immigration Task Force of the National Conference of State Legislatures and have been intimately involved with immigration reform in Washington and in the states. At a recent meeting of the NCSL Task Force, I learned about efforts by the Mexican government to provide ID cards to Mexican citizens living abroad.

Mexican citizens living in New York can obtain "Consular Identification Cards" — known as Matrícula Consular— that show proof of Mexican nationality and foreign address. These cards were issued by Mexican consulates after a rigorous process to confirm the identity and residence of the bearer.

The Mexican consulates issue secure, reliable and tamper proof documents such as passports and Consular ID Cards.

But the Consular ID Cards have no bearing whatsoever on a person's immigration status. The information contained in the IDs is centralized in a database that is useful to locate Mexican nationals in case of emergency.

This document is recognized as a proof of identity by numerous banks and financial institutions, and by Mexican and US authorities, at the federal, state and local levels -but they are obviously of limited value.

And as Chair of the Cities Committee, I have also learned how several municipalities have taken steps aimed at improving their lives.

New York City's ID program would be similar programs in 11 other cities, including San Francisco and Los Angeles; Trenton, New Jersey; Washington; and New Haven, Connecticut.

San Francisco's example might serve as a model. San Francisco has issued nearly 20,000 cards since its program was launched in 2009, an average of 4,000 a year.

Public safety concerns, in part, motivated the San Francisco program.

Although immigrants become crime victims at rates similar to or greater than the general population, they report crime at lower rates, according to studies. The underreporting of crime poses a serious public safety problem and erodes the ability of law enforcement to function effectively in the city.

New Haven was the first city to start an ID program and has issued more than 12,000 municipal IDs in seven years.

ID cards have helped New Haven residents become part of the community and has improved relationships with non-citizens and the city's police department when residents need help and would be otherwise fearful of talking to police officers.

The ID cards would serve undocumented immigrants as well as the homeless, low-income elderly people, former prisoners and members of the LGBTQ community - another growing group in the 51st Assembly District- who may have difficulty obtaining other government-issued IDs.

Like non-resident state drivers licenses legislation Assemblyman Ortiz has been sponsoring and fighting for in Albany, non-resident ID cards for New York City residents would go a long way to recognize the contribution of our growing populations and help make New York the "one city" Mayor deBlasio envisions.

FOR THE RECORD

Written Testimony submitted to the New York City Council Committee on Immigration -- Support of Intro. 253

**Msgr. Sullivan, Executive Director of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York
April 30, 2014**

Good morning Chairman Menchaca, Councilmember Dromm and members of the City Council Committee on Immigration. My name is Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, executive director of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York. I am respectfully submitting written testimony in support of Intro. 253, which creates a New York City identity card program.

The Catholic Church has long been in the forefront of immigration reform and services to immigrant communities regardless of one's place of origin or religious beliefs. This legislation a mechanism for inclusion and identity into city life of immigrant, as well as, other isolated groups. Catholic Charities is a federation of 90 agencies that:

- Protect and Nurture Children & Youth
- Feed the Hungry and Shelter the Homeless
- Strengthen Families and resolve Crisis
- Support the Physically and Emotionally Challenged, and
- Welcome and Integrate Immigrants and Refugees.

The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, through its many agencies and programs, has worked tirelessly to help refugees fleeing persecution to get protection in the United States and immigrants to reunite with their families legally, obtain proper work authorization, apply for naturalization, learn English and civics, and prepare to pass their citizenship exams. We assist more than 100,000 individuals annually. We are privileged to operate the New York State New Americans Hotline which, this year alone, has received close to 25,000 calls in 17 different languages. We recently relocated our major center to downtown New York to provide better access for those from all boroughs.

New York City has a long tradition, like Catholic Charities, of welcoming immigrants and providing access to ensure dignity and justice for the human person. This bill will provide the ability for immigrants, seniors, homeless persons and other marginalized groups to obtain identification cards to access government services and structures. The lives of many will be vastly improved by the acceptance of various and broad forms of proof to establish residency and identity and thereby allow people to obtain identity cards.

We can't deny the contribution and influence of immigrants to the culture and economy of the City of New York. Establishing a way to access public schools to pick up their children, opening bank accounts, getting library cards, cashing checks and even entering a public building are just some of the ways that this municipal identification card can ensure that we continue on the path toward full civic participation for all New Yorkers, regardless of status.

We urge the speedy passage of this legislation and, again, congratulate the bill's sponsor, the Chair of the Immigration Committee, the Speaker and the other members of the City council for the introduction and support of this crucial measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Good Morning Chairperson Menchaca, and members of the Immigration Committee Councilmembers Dromm, Eugene, Koo and Espinal

My name is Bryan Ellicott and I fully support Intro 253 as an open and proud transgender man who is looking forward to the day when what I feel is the appropriate gender marker on my identification. I am pleased to see that this legislation is co-sponsored by some many members of the council.

It is a great honor and privilege to be here today and to speak with you on such an important piece of legislation, legislation that in my eyes can make New York City so much better than it was before.

The idea that New York City would allow me to decide that my true and proper gender identity is the one displayed on this piece of identification is something I couldn't be more excited about. Think about the number of times you show your idea on any given day, looking at New York State ID you know everything about a person. You know their full name (possibly not the name they go by), where they live, their date of birth, even how tall they are in some cases - if you're me how tall you aren't - and also the gender they were assigned at birth.

As my transition has progressed the idea of a female gender marker on my identification is something that brings a lot of distress and dysphoria for me personally. Especially when going out with friends and co-workers, many of who know that I am transgender. I don't look anything close to the gender that is identified by the State of New York on my DMV issued identification.

The protections of **Title 8 in New York City**

"The City of New York, with its great cosmopolitan population, there is no greater danger to the health, morals, safety and welfare of the city and its inhabitants than the existence of groups prejudiced against one another and antagonistic to each other because of their actual or perceived differences, including those based on race, color, creed, age, national origin, alienage or citizenship status, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, partnership status..."

In April 2002, the New York City Human Rights Law, located in **Title 8 of the New York City Administrative code was amended to make it clear that an individual's gender identity is an area of protection under the law. The law and policy of the City of New York to eliminate discrimination based upon an individual is "actual or perceived gender"**

"Gender" is defined in the City's Human Rights Law to include:

- actual or perceived sex;
- gender identity;

- *self-image;*
- *appearance; and,*
- *behavior or expression, whether or not that gender identity, self-image, appearance, behavior or expression is different from that traditionally associated with the legal sex assigned to an individual at birth.*

New York State has very strict guidelines for changing the gender markers on pieces of identification ranging from birth certificates to the licenses distributed by the Department of Motor Vehicle.

New York State Administrative Code: NY Comp R. & Regs. Title 10, 35.2 (205)
this law states the following

The New York State Department of Health. Vital Records Divisions has a policy providing for the change of sex designation on birth certificates upon the receipt of completed application.

- *a letter from the surgeon specifying date, place and the type of sexual reassignment/ gender reassignment surgery performed*
- *an operative report from the sexual reassignment surgery/gender reassignment performed*
 - *some additional medical information*

New York City Administrative Code- 24 RCNY Health Code S207.05 (a) 2006

A new birth certificate shall be filled when

- *The name of the person has been changed pursuant to court order and proof satisfactory to the Department has been submitted that such person has undergone sexual reassignment/ gender reassignment surgery*

Insurance companies do not cover the procedures that the state finds acceptable, just as an example to the committee a transgender female to male person can spend up to

\$8,100 just from top surgery, that does not include travel and other need things for the surgery or time off needed for healing

\$21,250 for bottom surgery, which is 4 procedures (Phalloplasty, Scrotoplasty, Testicular Implants and Glansplasty) and a one-night hospital

That is a lot of money and years of saving and fundraising, before you can have the state acknowledge your gender identity and expression and the truth is many of us wouldn't be able to currently get their markers changed because of the way these pieces of legislation are written. Some of us in the community don't even want all these surgeries.

I know some of the members of the council have concerns about fraud, when it comes to this piece of legislation. I have a suggestion on this issue at least from the gender identity or expression portion of the issue.

The solution to as a member of the transgender community is for people to provide a letter from either a) therapist while they are going through the process of becoming eligible for Hormone Replacement Therapy or b) physician that prescribes their hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

These are the same kind of documentation that are required in order to even have the procedures that the New York State find acceptable to have our gender markers changed after the surgeries.

There are an estimated 500,000 undocumented immigrants in New York City, many of whom are transgender.

New York City has an LGBT population of 568,903 or 4.5% of the population of the city. We don't know the exact number of Transgender people in the city because of the level of discrimination we face across New York City; even with the legislation we have to protect us.

This piece of legislation can benefit the lives of so many people, one of the communities being the transgender community whether they are immigrants to this country of just New Yorkers who had decided to become the people we now want to be known as the people we know ourselves to be.

Bryan Ellicott
718-710-1061
ellicottbryan@gmail.com

**Testimony of
Safe Horizon, Inc.**

**Int. No. 253, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of
the City of New York, in relation to the creation of a New York
city identity card program**

Immigration Committee

Carlos Menchaca, Chair

**Members: Mathieu Eugene, Daniel Dromm,
Peter A. Koo and Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.**

New York City Council

April 30, 2014

Introduction

Thank you, Chairman Menchaca, and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify before you today on the importance of amending the administrative code of the City of New York to create an identity card program. My name is Bitta Mostofi, and I am the senior attorney for Safe Horizon's Immigration Law Project. Safe Horizon is the nation's leading victim assistance organization and New York City's largest provider of services to victims of crime and abuse, their families and communities. Safe Horizon creates hope and opportunities for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers each year whose lives are touched by violence.

We are grateful the City Council is taking a look at this important issue, and asking community-based organizations like Safe Horizon to comment on our experiences. I would like to share with you the nature of our work, the population we serve and some issues we think may arise around the creation of this important New York City identity card program.

Background

Safe Horizon has over twenty-five years of experience providing services to New York City's immigrant community with a specialization in assisting immigrant victims of domestic violence, child abuse, assault, and other crimes. Since 1987, our **Immigration Law Project (ILP)** has provided free and low-cost services to victims of crime, torture and abuse in immigration proceedings. With help from the New York City Council's Immigrant Opportunities Initiative and other funders, ILP offers direct legal assistance to over 1,000 clients each year in many areas of immigration law, including Asylum, VAWA self-petitions, U visas, work authorization, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival, naturalization and representation in deportation and removal proceedings. In 2013 alone we provided consultations, referrals, hotline

assistance and direct representation to over 5,000 individuals. Our long-standing partnership with the New York City Council includes providing expert legal assistance to constituents referred to us by City Council members across the five boroughs as well as submitting testimony on important policy matters that affect our clients, including the support of VAWA reauthorization and mitigating the impact of the federal Secure Communities policy on innocent New Yorkers.

ILP specializes in assisting victims of crime and is unique in our community for serving domestic violence victims as well as victims of, child abuse, assault and torture. Clients come to us in many ways. As mentioned earlier, some are referred to us by members of the City Council and other legislative bodies. Others are referred by federal immigration officials and our partners in Federal, State and local law enforcement. Still others come to us through the network of community based social service providers, including many from within the continuum of services offered by Safe Horizon. In fact, the model of our agency is such that we strive to provide a more holistic and immediate response to our client's needs through inter-agency referrals to our shelters, caseworkers, counselors, and in office providers of legal services. In the past this has allowed us to attend to and complete cases in a more timely and efficient manner.

Recommendations

We are extremely encouraged that the City Council has contemplated the creation of a citywide municipal I.D. card. It is exciting to think that New York City will join other cities, such as Washington D.C., San Francisco, and New Haven, who are already making our nation's newcomers more comfortable and able to access their rights in their new homes.

Proof of Residency Requirements

Many of the clients Safe Horizon assists are undocumented immigrants, and cannot obtain any official City, State or Federal documentation. This lack of identity documentation is very often used by abusive partners in many situations to further isolate, demean, and mistreat the undocumented partner. Without an official I.D., our clients feel that they don't officially "exist". The creation of an easily obtainable, yet official I.D. card will obviate many of the problems faced by our clients in accessing local benefits, services or other transactions. No longer will abusers be able to tell their partners that they cannot call 911 because they have no "papers". This in turn will help our clients feel more secure when approaching law enforcement for assistance.

We applaud the efforts of the City Council to create an expansive list of documentation that would be acceptable forms of proof of residency to apply for the new I.D. card. However, we can see situations where our clients, who are living in a domestic violence situation, with a controlling partner, will not have any of the proof of residency documentation that the bill lists in section 3-135 (a)(ii). This may occur when an abusive partner will not allow our clients to be put on an apartment lease or a utilities account or a joint bank account, etc. Living in the United States as an undocumented individual also precludes much of the other residency proof listed in section 3-135 (a)(ii). That is, there is generally no employment pay stub for someone working off the books because she has no social security number. There is generally no insurance bill for the same reason. There will be no jury summons because only citizens can vote. If the abused person is childless, there will be no school verification for an enrolled child. Moreover we would like to stress that many of our clients will not have a stable residence or address that may be displayed

on the card itself. Often our clients are in shelters, temporary housing, staying with families or elsewhere and a secure and safe address will not be available for purposes of identification.

The Federal VAWA law, which this Council has continued to support, recognizes the inability of domestic violence clients to gather many proofs of residence and creates a flexible evidentiary standard of “any credible evidence.” VAWA further recognizes in this standard that often it is the survivors own statement that should be given the most weight.

In consideration of the difficulties survivor’s face the New York City Housing Authority will accept and advocacy letter from a social service organization such as Safe Horizon or Family Justice Center, as one proof of domestic violence priority classification. These examples we hope begin the conversation on how to best serve all New Yorkers who could benefit greatly from this I.D. card.

We urge the City Council to allow the Mayor’s Office of Operations to create, by rule, alternative methods by which individuals in such domestic violence situations can establish residency notwithstanding the lack of the specific documentation listed in section 3-135(a)(ii), as is provided for homeless individuals in that same section.

Encouraging Eligible Persons to Apply for the Law

We urge the City Council to mandate the Mayor’s Office to widely publicize this identity card initiative and to not publicize it only for immigrant populations. If only undocumented immigrants apply for this document, the document itself can be used to identify undocumented immigrants. If the card becomes known as an “immigrant” card alone, immigrants may fear applying, thinking that they will be self-identifying as “illegals”. But if many people, both documented and undocumented apply for the New York City I.D. card, then no one can assume that a bearer of the document is an undocumented immigrant living in the

United States without a lawful status. It would be unfortunate if this important initiative were to create sub-class of New York 'citizens'. We hope that City Council and the Mayor's office will consider working with technologically savvy partners and City attractions to provide greater incentive to obtain the proposed card for all New Yorkers.

Proof of Identity Requirements

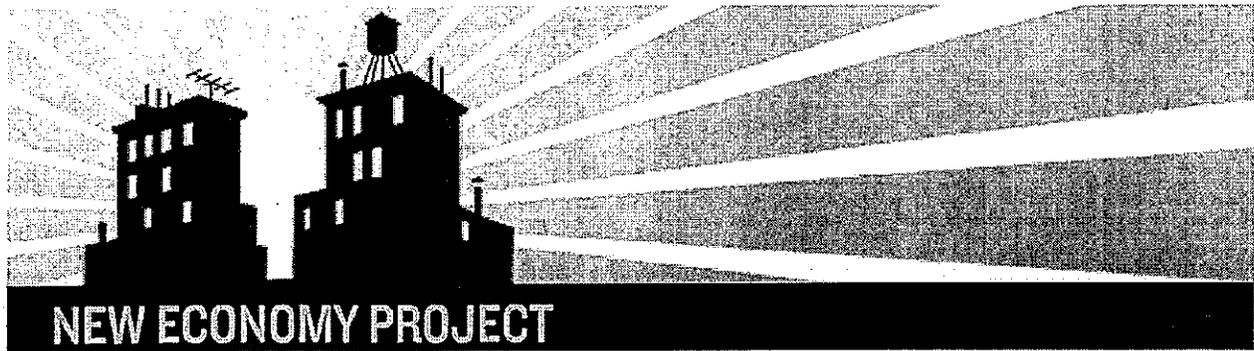
They current amendment provides as acceptable proof of identity a number of documents that we recognize are both reliable and used in the normal course of business. However, given that the purpose of the identification card is not to identify foreign born New York City residents or their alienage we encourage the Council to strongly consider the method by which data collection is conducted. We believe one way of ensuring that the appropriate safeguards are taken would be to provide City officials with a checklist to record what document was presented. This list need not say "foreign passport" or "foreign birth certificate" it could simply state "passport" or "birth certificate". Broad categories should be created that do not specifically identify the alienage of many of our clients. We do not want this tremendously positive step to be perceived as a database for the undocumented. Immigrant communities are already aware of the information sharing between ICE and local law enforcement and we must take every precaution and measure to ensure that the information collected cannot be abused.

Conclusion

We are very encouraged that City Council has asked to hear from community and legal service organizations that serve immigrant communities and recognizes that we must address the urgent need for a local identity document available to all New York City residents. We bear witness daily to our client's struggle to realize their rights and benefits. Yet, we know that once

those rights and benefits are realized it can have a life altering impact on their lives and their families. In particular for survivors of violence, it is extraordinary to see the confidence and courage they are able to find once they can come out of the shadows and the fear that they so often live. We truly believe that with this amendment and identification card the City will send a message to people like our clients, that they can come forward and access City agencies and benefits. One of the great things about this amendment is that it seeks to create a more welcoming and safe environment for everyone that lives here, bettering the lives of all our great City's residents.

Thank you again for allowing us to testify here today, and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
ON MUNICIPAL IDENTIFICATION

April 30, 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to testify at today's hearing about the proposed NYC municipal ID card program. My name is Deyanira Del Rio and I am the co-director of New Economy Project (formerly NEDAP), an organization that works with community groups to fight for economic justice and to build a new economy that works for all, based on principles of cooperation, equity, racial justice and ecological sustainability.

We applaud the City Council for putting forward its municipal ID proposal, which has the potential to help hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers who are currently marginalized from many of the city's services and institutions because they do not have access to a government-issued ID.

New Economy Project and our ally groups have worked extensively to hold banks accountable to communities, and to eliminate barriers that immigrants, low wage workers, and people living in neighborhoods of color face to fair financial services access. **We are excited about, and my testimony will focus on, opportunities for the City to use municipal IDs as a tool to promote financial inclusion for all New Yorkers.**

New York City's Office of Financial Empowerment estimates that 825,000 adults, representing 13% of households in the city, do not have any bank or credit union account. In the Bronx, the figure jumps to 29% of households. It has been well-documented that having a credit union or bank account helps families save, build assets, and avoid high-cost and predatory services. Without a bank account, people can pay hundreds or even thousands of dollars each year to cash their paychecks, access public benefits and pay bills. Expanding financial access could put literally millions of dollars back in the pockets of working poor New Yorkers and in their communities.

New Economy Project | 176 Grand Street, Suite 300 | New York, NY | 10013 | 212.680.5100 |

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People excluded from the banking system incur not only immediate financial costs, but also long-term setbacks. Lack of a banking or credit history, in particular, can unfairly block people from housing, jobs and other economic opportunities, as growing numbers of landlords, employers, insurance companies and others now evaluate and often discriminate against people on the basis of their credit histories.

We have seen that financial access can be particularly important to undocumented immigrants and low wage workers, who have used banking records to demonstrate their physical presence in the country, for example, or to support their claims in wage disputes with abusive employers. For many reasons, a credit union or bank account continues to be an important stepping stone to financial and economic stability.

Lack of government-issued identification is a major impediment to financial access. New and undocumented immigrants, homeless New Yorkers, and people returning to their communities from prison are among populations that face challenges in meeting banks' ID requirements. While federal banking law gives financial institutions flexibility to accept a wide range of identification, many banks have chosen, for example, to require at least two forms of ID to open accounts.¹ Some are reluctant to accept identification from other countries, or do so only on an inconsistent, case-by-case (or branch-by-branch) basis. Others require Social Security Numbers and even inquire about people's immigration status, potentially in violation of anti-discrimination laws. The introduction of a NYC municipal ID card could fill an important void in underserved communities and go far toward bridging the financial services divide in our city.

We recommend that New York City:

1. **Design the municipal ID card to meet the minimum requirements set forth by the Patriot Act.** The NYC ID card should contain, for example, a unique identification number and the cardholder's photo, name, birth date and address. Additional security and anti-fraud features could further encourage broad acceptance of the ID by banks and other institutions.
2. **Press financial institutions to accept the municipal ID as a primary ID to open accounts and to extend credit, as permitted under federal banking**

¹ The USA PATRIOT Act requires financial institutions to collect certain information from new customers, including their name, address, birth date, and a government-issued identification number – such as a Social Security Number or (for non-U.S. citizens) an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number or the number from *any government-issued ID card* bearing a photo or similar safeguard.

law. The City should work with diverse institutions – including state- and federally-chartered banks, community development and employer-based credit unions, and microenterprise groups – to educate them about the municipal ID card and to encourage its acceptance.

3. **Connect the municipal ID program to other policy initiatives that promote financial inclusion and reinvestment.** The NYC Responsible Banking Act, for example, permits the City to consider banks' performance in meeting community banking and credit needs, when deciding where to place the City's deposits. The City could consider the provision of services to municipal ID cardholders in its evaluation of banks.
4. **Press banks and credit unions to recognize the municipal ID as a true government-issued ID.** Anecdotally we have already begun to hear that some banks are viewing the municipal ID as a "lesser" ID and are planning to offer "special" or "niche" products, such as prepaid debit cards, to municipal ID cardholders. We urge the City to press for full and equitable access to all services that financial institutions provide. The municipal ID card is intended to unify and expand access for all New Yorkers—not create segregated products and systems for people who carry the cards.
5. **Consider going a step further and requiring that all City agencies and entities that do business with the City (including banks) must accept the municipal ID (as San Francisco did in its municipal ID card law).**

Finally, we applaud the City for choosing not to pursue a prepaid debit card function on the card, as some other cities have done. Prepaid cards typically carry high and often hidden fees, and are not uniformly insured and protected under federal law (unlike bank debit and credit cards), among other issues and concerns. We support the City in promoting the NYC ID as a tool that New Yorkers can use to access the financial institutions and services of their choice, rather than steering all cardholders to specific companies or products that may not be properly regulated and over which the City has little control.

Fair lending and economic justice advocates are eager to work with the City to ensure smooth implementation of the NYC ID and to secure its acceptance by a broad range of institutions. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.



FOR THE RECORD

New York City Anti-Violence Project
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212.714.1141 24-hour hotline

**Testimony of Virginia Goggin, Legal Director,
New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project
to the
New York City Council
Committee on Immigration
Hearing on Int. 0253-2014**

**A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York,
in relation to the creation of a New York city identity card program
April 30, 2014**

Good morning. My name is Virginia Goggin and I am the Legal Director at the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (AVP). I am here to testify about Int. 0253-2014, pending before the New York City Council that would amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York, in relation to the creation of a New York City Identity Card program

AVP empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ), and HIV-affected communities and allies to end all forms of violence through organizing and education, supports survivors through counseling and advocacy and provides direct legal services for survivors of violence. We envision a world in which all LGBTQ and HIV-affected people are safe, respected, and live free from violence.

On behalf of AVP and our coalition members, I thank the City Council for the opportunity to speak with you today and offer this testimony. **AVP supports the creation of a New York City Identity Card for all residents of New York City as the Identity Cards will have a positive effect on all of the communities that we serve. We also strongly support a provision that would allow residents to attest to or self-select the gender that appears on their New York City Identity Card.**

In working with LGBTQ and HIV-affected survivors of violence, AVP sees first-hand the ways in which our communities are negatively affected by the lack of access to proper identification, particularly transgender and gender non-conforming people. Without proper identification, community members are unable to access needed city services.

Many of our community members experience multiple challenges that can be addressed by the creation of the Identity Card. For example, there are LGBTQ and HIV-affected community members that are immigrants who are unable to obtain government identification; that are homeless – many of whom are young people; or that have traditionally been targeted by the police and subsequently arrested simply because they could not produce proof of their identity.

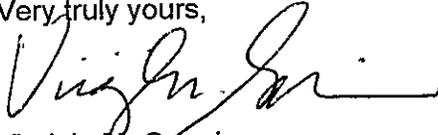
Moreover, many of the transgender and gender non-conforming people are unable to obtain identification that accurately reflects their gender which presents multiple barriers in their day-to-day lives. Without proper identification, transgender and gender non-conforming people face discrimination, have barriers to receiving city services and may even end up homeless as a result of these barriers. For this reason, we strongly believe that New York City residents

should be permitted to attest to or self-select the gender that appears on their Identity Cards to alleviate these problems.

We urge the New York City Council to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York that will create a New York City Identity Card Program and to allow for participants to attest to or self-select the gender that appears on their card.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Virginia M. Goggin".

Virginia M. Goggin
Legal Director
212.714.1184
vgoggin@avp.org

April 30, 2014

Re: Int. No 253, a Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the creation of a New York City identity card program.

Mister Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

The New York Legal Assistance Group (“NYLAG”) endorses and encourages passage of the instant initiative to create a New York City identity card program. In general, we believe that all efforts to encourage further immigrant involvement and integration into the civil fabric of New York City are laudable. Our experience as legal advocates for immigrants informs us that many of our clients harbor deep-seated fears and anxieties regarding interactions with government officials of any stripe. The result of such inhibitions is that many individuals abstain from accessing services to which they are entitled, and a sense of divisiveness amongst immigrant and non-immigrant groups is permitted to thrive. Therefore, a program which seeks to facilitate interactions between municipal agencies and immigrant groups, while offering a useful alternative form of identification, would certainly be a net positive to our clients and their families.

It can be difficult to comprehend the difficulties the immigrants of New York City face on a daily basis as they attempt to navigate labyrinthine bureaucracies, which have little to no patience or awareness for their specific needs. A process that might appear straight forward and approachable for some, may very well be perceived as extremely traumatic and impenetrable to others, such as our clients. By way of example, one of our clients was recently sent to 1 Police Plaza in order to be fingerprinted for a City-wide background check. This client suffers from acute post-traumatic stress syndrome and other maladies induced by years of domestic violence and the early-life trauma of female genital mutilation in her home country of Mali. Though she was accompanied by a translator and friend, her experience was fraught with difficulty. She did not have the proper form filled out. She did not possess the correct form of identification. She must stand on this line instead of that line. At day’s end, she returned to our office empty handed and deflated. The following day, a paralegal accompanied her and ushered her through the process, delicately explaining to the officer on duty that she was a victim of domestic violence and would get what she had come seeking. A universally-accepted municipal identity card would certainly have aided our client in her interaction with the New York Police Department. However, it would not cure the problem entirely.

While offering a municipal identity card to all New Yorkers regardless of their immigration status sends a message of tolerance and sensitivity to immigrants residing here, broader reform of our municipal and state laws and policies is necessary if we are to truly serve the needs of our city’s immigrant groups. To wit, increased language access capacity and cultural sensitivity training must accompany any reforms to our municipal civil services regime. Without creating a welcoming for immigrants, access to services means very little. Further, current New York City and State laws regarding the practice of immigration

law, and the regulation thereof, allow for many immigrants to be defrauded by non-attorney practitioners who act with relative impunity. Having been defrauded, the majority of victims have no place and no person to turn to. In addition, the New York Police Department should adopt, or be made to adopt, more immigrant-friendly policies if we are to encourage immigrants to regularly report crimes and interact openly with police officers. Our recommendations to the NYPD would include a more transparent policy regarding their signing of U visa certifications and a policy that would further limit the use of immigration detainers for criminal detainees.

In sum, we hope that the creation of a municipal identity card will foster a social and political environment where greater reforms become a reality and our city's immigrants can live without fear of those who are there to aid them. We believe that New York City is poised to become a beacon of acceptance and sensitivity towards immigrants and we are pleased to assist in that effort.

F.T.R.



**IMMIGRANT
DEFENSE
PROJECT**

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www.ImmigrantDefenseProject.org

New York City Council Committee on Immigration
April 30, 2014 Hearing on Int. No. 253, New York City Identity Card Program
Testimony of Mizue Aizeki, Policy & Community Outreach Coordinator

The Immigrant Defense Project works to protect and expand the rights of those caught at the intersection of the criminal justice system and the immigration system. We are thankful for the leadership of Councilmembers Dromm and Menchaca, and the critical support from the Mayor and Speaker's offices, in moving forward a bill that will benefit all New Yorkers. A municipal ID that is available and accessible to a diversity of New Yorkers, while also safeguarding privacy and the right to designate one's gender, is the right step towards ensuring equal access to services and protections for all New Yorkers.

Privacy is important for all New Yorkers, and the City can play a key role in protecting privacy by not retaining copies of any of the underlying records that an applicant uses to prove identity and residency and by prohibiting the sharing of information collected through the program with any State or Federal authorities. Protections against identity theft and fraud are equally important, yet because identity theft and misuse are addressed by current misdemeanor offenses in New York Penal Law, it is not necessary to create a new offense specific to the municipal ID; thus, "§3-253. Penalties" is duplicative of existing state penal law and not necessary to protect against fraud or misuse. Furthermore, the City's documentation requirements to prove identity and residency are rigorous and provide safeguards against fraud.

This ID can play a positive role in improving community relations with the NYPD and in protecting New Yorkers from discriminatory policing practices. For example, allowing the cardholder to self-designate gender will assist NYPD alignment with its June 2012 Patrol Guide revision intended to end discriminatory practices by officers against transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Overall people who are subject to frequent stops by the NYPD and who also have obstacles to acquiring a valid ID – including homeless, formerly incarcerated people, LGBTQ people, youth and immigrants – will be better prepared to navigate encounters with the police.

This municipal ID may also help residents avoid the potentially harsh consequences of an arrest as having an ID that allows one to identify themselves with the NYPD may help de-escalate the situation and avoid arrest all together. Given the increasing risk of deportation that immigrants face when brought into the police precinct, avoiding arrest is ever more critical. Once immigrants are funneled from the criminal legal system into ICE custody, they are often transferred to remote immigration detention centers, making their lack of access to services more severe. People in ICE detention people face an incredibly difficult time fighting a pending criminal charge, reuniting with children, or fighting their deportation. It becomes even more difficult to screen people for abuse or trafficking. Even though immigration remedies, such as U or T visas, may be available, many are unable to access them due to geographical isolation.

Thank you again for your commitment to an NYC municipal ID program that allows all New Yorkers to access the benefits and protections of having a valid government-issued ID. This ID will send a strong message that New York embraces its diversity and strives for inclusion of all.



Testimony of Sharon Cromwell, Policy Analyst, SEIU 32BJ
New York City Council, Immigration Committee
In Support of Intro 253
April 30, 2014

FOR THE RECORD

Good morning Councilmembers. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in favor of creating a municipal ID for New York City residents. My name is Sharon Cromwell and I am a Policy Analyst at SEIU 32BJ. We represent 145,000 building service workers along the East coast. 32BJ members speak 28 different languages, come from 64 different countries, and represent a microcosm of immigrants, as well as families with long histories in the U.S. We all share the commitment to making life better for working families, and a fundamental respect for the dignity of all people.

This is why I am here today testifying in support of Intro 253. The impact municipal IDs will have on the lives of NYC residents, particularly undocumented residents, cannot be understated. For those of us who have accepted forms of identification, it can be difficult to recount just how important identity documents are in our daily lives.

We need them to cash checks, open bank accounts, and access many buildings and services. Undocumented immigrants who do not have identity documents are often afraid to report crimes or interact with the police, out of fear of being discovered as undocumented or worse. Immigrants who are badly injured or killed, through assault or workplace injury may not be easily identified and this can prevent notification of their loved ones. Immigrants who are unable to open bank accounts because they lack identification are walking targets for robbery – particularly on pay days. For these reasons and more we need municipal IDs.

Though this ID would be particularly useful for undocumented residents, it is important to ensure that it has broad appeal to all NYC residents. Otherwise it runs the risk of being branded as an ID card solely for undocumented immigrants, thereby signaling the status of the cardholder. This would run counter to the intention of this bill.

Intro 253 includes a provision that could protect against this—this provision encourages that there be expanded benefits associated with the identity card. This could include the ID card being used as a NYC public library card or as a city discount card, providing cardholders with lower entrance fees for museums and events and discounts at local businesses and restaurants. This will help ensure that the ID cards provide value to all NYC residents, thus boosting the diversity of people who apply for the card.

New Haven, CT and San Francisco, CA provide models for the NYC ID card and could be good resource when, upon passage of Intro 253, the City begins implementation. San Francisco's ID card has the option of including medical conditions or allergies of the cardholder and an emergency contact, in addition to being used as ID for city and banking purposes, and a discount card. This not only makes the card useful for groups that have fewer identification options—such as undocumented immigrants, youth and senior citizens—but it also makes the card more appealing for everybody.

San Francisco's cards fraud resistant elements also make it a good model for NYC. These elements include tamperproof materials, biometric data like photos and signatures, embedded watermarks, the City's seal among others.

As the struggle for immigration reform at the federal level continues, there are important steps states and cities can take to make our communities more inclusive for all people, regardless of their status—municipal IDs is one of those steps. 32BJ has helped expand access to Drivers Licenses for residents, regardless of their immigration status, in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Connecticut. We are eager to see New York City adopt municipal ID cards. Thank you.

**Testimony of Anya Mukarji-Connolly
New York Legal Assistance Group
LGBT Law Project**

**Before the New York City Council
Committee on Immigration
Regarding Proposed Bill No. 253
April 30, 2014**

Thank you to Committee Chair Council Member Carlos Menchaca and Council Member Daniel Dromm for spearheading this important bill.

My name is Anya Mukarji-Connolly and I am the supervising attorney for the LGBT Law Project at the New York Legal Assistance Group. Our office provides free legal services and advocacy to low income Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) communities throughout New York City. We work to defend and expand the rights of New York City's LGBTQ community and offer legal advice and representation in a wide variety of poverty-related civil legal matters, such as employment discrimination, housing, public assistance, legal name changes and family law.

On behalf of the New York Legal Assistance Group, I am here to offer our strong support for the proposed New York City Municipal ID card and to advocate for a policy that would allow applicants to self-attest to their gender.

Why Is a Municipal ID Card Important to LGBTQ Communities?

Having access to accurate and valid government issued ID cards is a particularly pressing issue for transgender and gender non-conforming communities. Transgender people are more likely to have problems obtaining accurate and valid ID documents. Family rejection and homelessness in transgender communities is even more severe than for other communities. Over 50% of transgender people have experienced significant family rejection, and one in three transgender New Yorkers has been homeless. Not having valid ID that accurately reflect a person's self-identified gender is one of the greatest factors in causing discrimination and often leads to humiliation, harassment and violence against transgender and gender non-conforming people. Valid ID is needed to apply for work, enter most buildings in New York, travel, use a credit card, produce upon request from law enforcement, and many other daily interactions.

The Right to Define One's Gender

As advocates working with LGBTQ New Yorkers, we believe that it is vitally important for residents to self-identify their gender. No documentation, including medical documentation, should be required to establish one's gender on his or her identity document. Today, we'd want to help counter any concerns that self-identifying one's gender will increase the potential for fraud or cause confusion. In fact, it is just the opposite. Having accurate identification that reflects ones lived gender will help avoid confusion and the subsequent "outing" of a person which often leads to violence and discrimination.

Let me be clear, the self-attestation policy which has been proposed will allow a person to do what the NYC Human Rights Law already contemplates and protects. That is, a person has the right to self-identify their gender. A person's gender identity is not the basis of the municipal ID card and is only one of many identifying features included on identification cards. All applicants must first provide valid documentation of their name and residency in New York City. Only with proper documentation, which will be vetted for authenticity by trained staff, can a person obtain a city-issued ID card.

Allowing people to self-identify their gender for purposes of the municipal ID card follows the protocol recommended by the World Professionals Association of Transgender Health, Inc. (“WPATH”)¹, an international, multidisciplinary, professional association whose mission is to promote evidence-based care, education, research, advocacy, public policy, and respect in transsexual and transgender health.

There are a number of reasons why transgender and gender non-conforming people should not have to provide medical documentation of their gender identity. First, not every transgender person requires or wants assistance from a health care provider to aid in transition. An applicant should not be required to seek out unwanted, unnecessary and potentially costly health care treatment only to fulfill an arbitrary requirement to access ID that accurately reflects his or her gender. Further, not all transgender people have access to the transition-related health care they require. Transition-related healthcare, much of which is not yet covered by health insurance, can be prohibitively expensive and unattainable for the majority of transgender individuals.

A New York City municipal ID that allows for self-attestation of gender will prevent the burden of unattainable and often unwanted surgery and resulting sterilization, the creation of discriminatory practices for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and the encroachment on an individual’s right to privacy.

The Municipal ID Bill Will Support Public Safety Efforts in NYC

By ensuring that all New York residents have access to accurate and valid government-issued identification cards, the City will be promoting public safety in New York City. Indeed, many of the municipal identification card efforts around the country grew out of public safety initiatives with intentions of ensuring that marginalized communities, including undocumented communities, were empowered to engage with police. Like earlier efforts, ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to a valid and gender-affirming city-issued identification card may make it easier for people to access important services, including police assistance. It will further assist the police in making a positive identification of people they stop. Instead of being held in police custody while the police make a positive identity, residents with valid identification can also assist the police in identifying the people they stop and interact with while on patrol, and will assist city agencies and applicants in need to access critical social services for themselves and their families.

The Municipal ID is in Line with the NYPD Patrol Guide

The gender self-attestation policy being proposed in the municipal identification bill is in line with the New York Police Department’s Patrol Guide which was revised in June 2012 to prevent discriminatory practices against transgender and gender non-conforming individuals during interactions with the police. The revised guide includes an expansive definition of “gender” to include gender identity and expression, consistent with New York City’s Human Rights Law. The Patrol Guide instructs police officers to refer to transgender New Yorkers by names and pronouns that reflect their gender identity (even if it does not match the information on their ID documents). This has resulted in amended forms so that people’s “preferred name” can be recorded and used while they are in police custody. The Patrol Guide prohibits officers from searching a person for the sole purpose of determining a person’s gender. The Guide also applies to school safety officers, who are NYPD officers in New York City Public Schools.

Preventing Fraud

In order for New York’s municipal identification card to be useful and effective, it must be secure and safeguards must be in place to prevent any fraudulent use. As advocates working with vulnerable communities, we share the city’s

¹ WPATH Standards of Care: http://www.wpath.org/uploaded_files/140/files/Standards%20of%20Care,%20V7%20Full%20Book.pdf

goal of ensuring that this municipal identification card is both accessible to those who need it most and that the cards are accurate and accepted as a valid form of identification by all public and private agencies in New York City.

The proposed bill contemplates the potential for fraud and has included safeguards to ensure that only those with valid proof of identification can obtain and use these cards. The proposed municipal identification card will only be available to applicants who can produce valid forms of government-issued identification to prove one's identity, and two forms of documentation to prove one's residency in New York City. The city agency who will ultimately administer these identification cards will have trained staff to determine the authenticity of all identification and documentation.

Important identifying information-name, address, and date of birth- will be included on the face of the identification card in order to ensure that the user of the card is the true card holder. That information will assist card holders in applying for City services. The card itself will not make an individual eligible for services that they are not otherwise eligible for. The card will merely be used to establish a person's name, address and date of birth. Other identifying features on the face of the card, such as date of birth, gender, height, weight and eye color, will help ensure that only those issued a valid identification card are able to use the card.

Gender identity and expression does not requires a diagnosis or medical intervention. Therefore, requiring medical documentation of one's gender identity is unnecessary, overly burdensome, a violation of privacy and at odds with nationally recognized standards of medical care.

Precedent

The New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) has already implemented a self-attestation of gender policy. In 2006, DHS introduced a policy for single adults seeking shelter to be placed in sex-segregated facilities based upon on the gender with which they identify. The DHS policy is simple and straight forward: when a staff member asks an individual how they identify, a placement is made based upon what the client says, irrespective of legal documents or physical appearance. Seven years after the implementation of this policy, DHS reported that the policy was a success, despite the surrounding controversy and concerns².

We hope that New York City's Municipal ID card will be the next the follow suit. Transgender and gender non-conforming individual, among the most vulnerable residents in New York City, need access to accurate and valid ID cards and that is just what this proposed bill will do-make these cards safe and accurate and accessible.

We applaud the City Council and the Mayor's office for taking this critical step toward ensuring that all New Yorker's have access to valid ID cards. We urge you to continue to push for the self-attestation clause, which will make a great idea an even better one by recognizing the diverse needs of the people who call New York City their home. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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² According to DHS, "[d]espite early controversy and predictions of failure, our policy was implemented throughout the shelter system successfully and without incident." Testimony of Douglas James, Commissioner of Adult Services at the Department of homeless services, June 10, 2013, available at http://www.nyc.gov/html/dhs/downloads/pdf/testimony/dhs_final_lgbt_061013.pdf.

My name is Rogers and I am a member of Picture The Homeless, a local non-profit that works with thousands of homeless New Yorkers -many of whom are homeless because they don't have acceptable identification to work a steady job or to rent an apartment. I am here not just for me, but for thousands of others like me. We are many thousands of New Yorkers who need the proposed form of municipal identification. We are from many different places in the US and overseas. We come from prisons and from shelters. We come from overseas or small towns that don't have adequate record-keeping. We came up through a foster care maze. We come from the streets. What we have in common is that we need to be recognized and affirmed by the New York City agencies and businesses to whom we turn for help and support.

We are former felons; we are homeless street people; we are immigrants. All of us are New Yorkers who are running into (governmental) obstacles when we try to open a bank account, to rent a room or apartment, to register for school, to ride on interstate transportation, to get medical treatment, to arrange our lives.

I AM AN IMMIGRANT WHO HAS LOST HIS PASSPORT, ALIEN CARD AND ALL HIS GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION.

I have been through the NYC municipal DHS homeless shelter system; they ran my fingerprints 'through the system' on a regular basis. While I was in the shelter system I lost all of my identification. They issued me a DHS identification card that other city agencies won't accept. I have been trying in the years since to recoup what other city agencies say is 'acceptable' identification.

I used to work for the Police Department of the City of New York. The Police Department's Personnel Division has my fingerprints and copies of my passport and alien card in their personnel files. But I have been told that without an attorney to file papers saying that I need them, NYPD cannot give me copies of my own identification.

I am in the (not so unique) situation *that the city has proof of my identification and my legal immigrant status. But I don't.*

I don't want to be unemployed. I don't want to be receiving public benefits. I don't want Section 8 to have to subsidize my rent. I have proven in past (*when I had acceptable identification*) that I can be self-sufficient and I didn't need to rely of government benefits to feed myself and keep a roof over my head. Nowadays I can't even apply for many jobs that I am qualified to do. These employers say that (by law) they can't accept the Identification I have. The 'papers' that I have are insufficient.

Different documents are out there that are 'acceptable' to different people and organizations. But what I and thousands of others like me need now is one form of identification that can be accepted by ALL governmental agencies—for education and child-rearing agencies, for housing, for benefits, for financial transactions.

Testimony of
Coalition for the Homeless

on

Int. No. 253-2014 – Legislation to Create Municipal ID Cards in New York City

Presented before

The New York City Council
Committee on Immigration

Gabriela Sandoval Requena
Policy Analyst
Coalition for the Homeless

April 30, 2014

Coalition for the Homeless welcomes this opportunity to testify before the New York City Council Committee on Immigration in support of Int. No. 253-2014, legislation to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to the creation of a New York City identity card program.

About the Coalition for the Homeless

Coalition for the Homeless: Coalition for the Homeless, founded in 1981, is a not-for-profit advocacy and direct services organization that assists more than 3,500 homeless New Yorkers each day. The Coalition advocates for proven, cost-effective solutions to the crisis of modern homelessness, which now continues past its third decade. The Coalition also protects the rights of homeless people through litigation around the right to emergency shelter, the right to vote, and life-saving housing and services for homeless people living with mental illness and HIV/AIDS.

The Coalition operates twelve direct-services programs that offer vital services to homeless, at-risk, and low-income New Yorkers, and demonstrate effective, long-term solutions. These programs include supportive housing for families and individuals living with AIDS, job-training for homeless and formerly-homeless women, rental assistance which provides rent subsidies and support services to help working homeless individuals rent private-market apartments, and permanent housing for formerly-homeless families and individuals. Our summer sleep-away camp and after-school program help hundreds of homeless children each year. The Coalition's mobile soup kitchen distributes 900 nutritious meals each night to street homeless and hungry New Yorkers. Finally, our Crisis Intervention Department assists more than 1,000 homeless and at-risk households each month with eviction prevention assistance, client advocacy, referrals for shelter and emergency food programs, and assistance with public benefits.

The Coalition also represents homeless men and women as plaintiffs in Callahan v. Carey and Eldredge v. Koch. In 1981 the City and State entered into a consent decree in Callahan in which it was agreed that, "The City defendants shall provide shelter and board to each homeless man who applies for it provided that (a) the man meets the need standard to qualify for the home relief program established in New York State; or (b) the man by reason of physical, mental or social dysfunction is in need of temporary shelter." The Eldredge case extended this legal requirement to homeless single women. The Callahan consent decree and the Eldredge case also guarantee basic standards for shelters for homeless men and women. Pursuant to the decree, the Coalition serves as court-appointed monitor of municipal shelters for homeless adults.

Proposed Int. No. 253

We strongly support Int. No. 253-2014, which calls for changes in the City's Administrative Code that would allow for the creation of a municipal photo-identification card available to all New Yorkers.

The Importance of Government-Issued ID to Homeless Individuals

A government-issued photo ID is an essential document to access even the most basic services in New York City. It is required when applying for a library card, entering public

buildings, reporting a crime, obtaining employment, leasing an apartment and opening bank accounts. Having a photo ID plays an important role in integrating individuals to their community and promoting a sense of belonging.

Without identification, New Yorkers, especially those in need, are likely to struggle in their daily lives. Government benefit programs and many private resources for low-income people require government-issued identification. Additionally, if an individual is issued a summons and is unable to provide photo identification, the police may detain him or her until they can positively determine his or her identity. The consequences of not having an identification card could be extremely detrimental and ostracizing for thousands of already vulnerable New York City residents.

As bad as these problems are for low-income New Yorkers, they are significantly worse for homeless people. Government-issued identification is often too difficult or impossible to obtain by the nearly tens of thousands of homeless adults who sleep in the municipal shelter system. Many of these individuals lack the resources to obtain a photo ID. Even if they are able to gather the required documentation and money to cover its cost, their lack of fixed residence poses a unique challenge to them.

The enactment of this legislation will help the thousands of New York City residents without a permanent home obtain a much-needed identification card, and, ultimately, help stabilize their lives.

Creating a municipal identification program that addresses the needs of New Yorkers regardless of their housing status will improve the quality of life of homeless individuals and families tremendously. It will allow them to better integrate into their communities, and take advantage of critical social, cultural and educational services already available to them.

Int. No. 253-2014 is a common-sense initiative that will help thousands of homeless New Yorkers obtain government-issued photo identification. It represents a valuable resource to our clients and our community.

We strongly support this legislation, and look forward to working with the administration and City Council to ensure that the implementation of the municipal identification program is a success, and reaches those individuals who need it the most. In particular, we look forward to ensuring that the implementation provisions most important to homeless New Yorkers – including rules around proof of residency and waiver of fees – is accomplished in a manner that makes the new municipal ID card accessible to all homeless New Yorkers who need it.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony. And, as always, we look forward to collaborating with the committee and the City Council on their efforts to better assist New York City's homeless population.

Good morning. My name is Lauren Burke and I am the Executive Director of Atlas: DIY, Developing Immigrant Youth. I am also a proud resident of Sunset Park, Brooklyn in New York City's 38th. I come here today in strong support the Creation of a New York city identity card program.

Though Atlas DIY works primarily with undocumented youth, who are, as you know, in great need of this ID. Every time a purchase is made or a W2 filed, they are paying taxes for services allowed under our laws, yet which they cannot access because they have no "government" ID validating their existence. Aside from immigrant populations, however, Atlas also works with their allies who comprise all walks of New York City life and who are also often in need of municipal identification. At Atlas, I work with transgendered youth like Mickey, who faces, at best, confusion but more often discrimination because his state ID identifies him as "female" while he presents as male. Atlas also represents Brittany, a 24 year old survivor of domestic violence and single mother, who struggled to have her children enrolled in school in the district of her domestic violence shelter because their identifying documents were under the control of her abuser. All of these individuals and more would benefit from the creation of municipal ID's.

And so would I.

I will let you in on a secret, though I lived in New York City for eight proud years I still hold a Massachusetts driver's license in my wallet. Due to a myriad of factors including one expiring document after another, the loss of my social security card after my parent's divorce, my choosing to receive online bills instead of papers ones in the mail, and the fact that it is hard to take a day off when you work three jobs to stand in line at the DMV, I have yet to receive my own New York State ID card. Now you may be thinking "she's just too lazy, or she should have put in more effort" and I absolutely agree with you. But the fact of the matter is that if I, I privileged US citizen, with no children and certainly more flexible work schedule than many new Yorkers could benefit from the passage of this bill, well than there are thousands like me who would as well.

One of my members at Atlas was an undocumented immigrant herself. Married to an abusive US citizen husband, she lived in constant fear of her deportation so withstood his beatings until he began to abuse their daughter at which point she fled and received shelter and then lawyer and now has a green card. I bring her up because of what she once told me about where she felt she belonged. She told me that whenever she comes into New York City and sees the skyline she thinks to herself "That's home." And I have to agree with that sentiment. Ever since I was twelve years old and dreamed of living in New York City that skyline has been a representation of the home I wanted to make for myself, a home where one can reinvent oneself, regardless of one's past or born gender or country of origin. A place where everyone belongs. and I thank you for the opportunity on behalf of myself and my members for giving us the opportunity to finally feel that we do.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

**Testimony before the New York City Council
Committee on Immigration in Support of Intro. 253
Joseph Rosenberg, Executive Director of the Catholic Community Relations Council
April 30, 2014**

Good morning Chairman Menchaca, Councilmember Dromm and members of the City Council Committee on Immigration. I am Joseph Rosenberg, Executive Director of the Catholic Community Relations Council (“CCRC”), a not for profit corporation established by the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens to represent the Church on local legislative and policy matters before the Mayoral Administration and the City Council. I am pleased to be here to testify strongly in support of Intro. 253, a far reaching and important bill. We applaud Councilmember Dromm and Chairman Menchaca for sponsoring this initiative.

By providing the ability for immigrants to obtain identification cards to access government services, this bill will vastly improve the lives of so many residents of our City. The bill is very broad in indicating the acceptable forms of proof to establish residency and identity and thereby allow people to obtain identity cards. Furthermore, this bill empowers the Mayor’s Office of Operations to promulgate rules to ensure that this law will be flexible and able to assist as many New Yorkers as possible.

We are a City of immigrants, many of us second and third generation. The tradition continues in the instance of the more recent arrivals to our City who will benefit from Intro. 253. The Catholic Church has long been in the forefront of immigration reform and services to immigrant communities regardless of one’s place of origin or religious beliefs. This legislation will go far in embracing and assisting this growing population.

The mission of Catholic Migration Services of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens is to empower underserved immigrant communities in Brooklyn and Queens regardless of religion or ethnicity. Their Immigrant Tenancy Advocacy Program (“ITAP”) provides free in person housing services to help low income, immigrant tenants in their fight for decent and affordable housing, as well as providing legal advice and assistance. Their Immigrant Workers’ Rights Program represents workers in disputes over wage and hour violations, unsafe working condition, and other abuses suffered by immigrants in our City. Their Immigration Legal Service Program also represents immigrants in deportation and removal proceedings.

The Division of Immigrant and Refugee Services of the Catholic Charities Community Services (“CCCS”) of the Archdiocese of New York provides a similar comprehensive range of services, not just in Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island but also in the counties of Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties. They assist more than 100,000 individuals annually. Their attorneys represent immigrants in proceedings before the immigration courts and other tribunals; litigate cases including political asylum, and provide immigration presentations and referral information to public school staff, social service caseworkers and shelter staff who work with immigrant populations. The Division manages a program providing legal services to unaccompanied immigrant minors and in conjunction with another CCCS program, the Refugee Resettlement Department, the Division offers over 45 English as a Second Language, job readiness, and culture and integration classes through a network of 200 volunteers. Finally, CCCS also operates a multilingual New Americans Hotline to respond to immigration and citizenship related questions, answering over 25,000 calls annually.

In short, both the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn have focused on the importance of providing essential services and counseling to New York’s immigrant community, something that Intro. 253 envisions and dramatically expands.

We urge the speedy passage of this legislation and, again, congratulate the bill’s sponsors for the introduction of this crucial measure.

Thank you.

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JOINT COUNCIL No.16

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



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April 30, 2014

I am here on behalf of George Miranda, President of Teamsters Joint Council 16, and will read a statement from President Miranda.

Teamsters Joint Council 16 represents 120,000 members in the New York area.

The New York City Teamsters support municipal identification cards for any New Yorker, regardless of immigration status. This proposal from Mayor de Blasio, Speaker Mark-Viverito, Councilmember Dromm and Councilmember Menchaca makes sense for our diverse city.

Municipal IDs will bring vulnerable New Yorkers out of the shadows, and one step closer to full participation in civic and commercial life.

Ours is a city of immigrants. Without our immigrant communities, not only would we lose the art, culture, food, and values that make us New Yorkers, our city would literally cease to function. Immigrants, many of them undocumented, do the jobs that run New York – but they do them without the rights and recognition from the city that they deserve.

The reality for many of our undocumented neighbors is one of exclusion. They can send their children to public schools but cannot visit them there. They can earn money, but cannot open a bank account to keep it safe. They can call the police, but cannot identify themselves to an officer.

With municipal ID cards, undocumented and other New Yorkers will have access to banks, schools, other public and private buildings, and essential services. This is a big step toward a more equal city.

It is another opportunity for New York to lead, as our country's archetypal immigrant city. While other cities have created municipal IDs (without significant problems, I might add), New York would be by far the largest city to do so. Let other cities, and Washington, look to New York for the best example for how to work as one city, for all residents.

You have the support of the New York City Teamsters in making this proposal law.



P E
B H M

Première Eglise
Baptiste Haïtienne de Manhattan

First Haitian Baptist Church of Manhattan

Honorable Chairman

Honorable members of the Committee on Immigration

On behalf of PEBHM (and the Haitian community), I would like to thank you for the invitation to this hearing on an important topic such as NYC ID Int. # 253. As an immigrant, social worker, president of the board of the Première Eglise Baptiste Haïtienne de Manhattan (First Haitian Baptist Church of Manhattan), Social Service Supervisor in a NYC Shelter, you can imagine how I experience the daily challenges that the immigrants face to identify themselves when they report to public office for services. It is also a problem when they have to cash their checks, to open a bank account, or to apply for state ID cards. By giving them the opportunity to identify themselves as New Yorkers part of their community, you also make them feel more human while confirming that NYC is the land of the Immigrants.

Research has shown that it takes 7 years for an immigrant to accept the adopted land as his/her new land. By issuing an ID card, Mr. Chairman, you will not only tell them that they are welcome but also you will help them integrate quicker in their new environment and reduce the stress and isolation that usually come with the resettlement process.

Because undocumented immigrants don't like to expose themselves, they prefer to remain anonymous by fear of being reported to ICE (Immigration Custom Enforcement). I do understand that only the bad guys should be afraid of carrying the only piece of ID that could help to identify themselves.

Mr. Chairman,

Issuing a NYC card won't only be useful to the immigrants but also to the minorities documented or not. Every day, I receive in my office residents from my shelter who are in need of a birth certificate, social security card or State ID to apply for government benefits. However, the failure to show proper identification makes it very difficult to acquire other important documents. Due to their instability they, often, lose their beds and their belongings after seven days leaving the shelter. They are often in need of new government issued documents. Some of them have lost the opportunity

to get public assistance or even permanent placement because they cannot a valid picture ID to the providers. By adding the waiver component, you make this new law more attractive and appealing to the immigrant community and the underserved - particularly the homeless residents. I thank Councilman Dr. Eugene and Congresswoman Yvette Clark for their assistance and

I am the Rev Terry Troia, Director of Project Hospitality, and Chair of the SI Interfaith Clergy Leadership. For the last 30 years our interfaith effort has provided church and synagogue based voluntary shelters for homeless people, we work in collaboration with DHS, Dept of Homeless Services. There is a group of chronic homeless persons, mostly elderly with memory loss, who cannot move out of shelters because of lack of appropriate documentation. Even in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, we served non-immigrant families in the city's evacuation center and FEMA who did not have sufficient identification to apply for necessary services.

A municipal ID card, similar to programs already effectively up and running in other American cities, would really help us move forward with getting chronic homeless people with severe impairment some level of service and housing. Such a program would really need to have the cooperation of the NYPD. I was privileged to represent Staten Island on the NYPD Advisory Committee for Tactics and Strategies during 2012 and 2013. The committee engaged then Commissioner Kelly in discourse on the importance of such a municipal ID program.

I can site several examples of local Staten Island residents, mostly impoverished, who have been detained, arrested and held at the precinct because they did not have ID for these reasons: sleeping in an abandoned building, sleeping in a garage, riding a bicycle on the sidewalk, taking a used newspaper out of the garbage can on the Staten Island ferry and calling the police to report an incident of domestic violence. These are some of the cases I have witnessed personally myself.

Poor people, disabled persons, elderly persons, persons with profound memory loss, and immigrants who are out of status are among those people who bear the suffering of being hauled in, disappearing into the criminal justice and dept of corrections for not having an accepted ID. I have personally witnessed numerous occasions of the police treating people disrespectfully when they stopped people on the street and asked for ID. I have witnessed people who tried to present their consulate ID, passport, library card, out of state driver's license or school ID as identification when asked be given summons for vagrancy for walking through the park, sitting on a park bench, standing on the

corner waiting for work. Most recently, an 18 year old homeless young person who ended up in Riker's island for sleeping in an abandoned building. He had no ID on him. He did not have a criminal record. He was charged with trespass and his bail was set at \$5000. The charges were eventually dropped to a violation and he was fined \$250.

I believe that Intro 253 with the support and cooperation of the NYPD will protect the civil rights of our neighbors who live on the economic and social margins of our city and who carry the burden of disability, age, poverty, or lack of status. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you.

Testimony: New York City Identity Card April 30, 2014

My name is Liam O'Doherty, an Augustinian friar and Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Staten Island. Our parish serves one of the oldest and certainly the largest, and most diverse immigrant communities on Staten Island. And we do so in a borough that has the highest percentage increase in immigrant population in the city of New York: Latinos, Poles, Sri Lankans, Indians, Italians, Africans and other ethnic groups. Our parishioners are small business owners that support the economy of Tompkinsville neighborhood, they are construction workers and landscapers and restaurant workers. They send their children to Catholic school and to our religious education programs. They uphold strong family values and they pass those values on to their children.

A very large percentage of these law-abiding citizens of our borough and city do not have acceptable documentation for police stops. Many have ID cards from their country's consulates ---which require a vigorous identification process. But they do not have ID that is acceptable for police.

Immigrants and people of color are stopped by police more than non-immigrants in our North Shore neighborhoods. And for minor infractions, or just lack of identification they have ended up in jail for days and weeks on end.

Here is one story of the suffering of an elderly immigrant from a neighboring parish.

Carlos (not his real name) an impoverished elderly man and insulin dependent diabetic who collects cans for money was arrested for collecting cans in a supermarket cart he had found in an abandoned lot in Port Richmond. He was arrested for theft of the supermarket cart. He did not have acceptable form of ID. He spent days in jail. His family tried repeatedly to give the police at the precinct his insulin. Without his insulin, Carlos went into a diabetic coma, ended up in ICU in Richmond University Hospital chained to his bed, with police assigned to guard his room.

After an outcry from the community, the parish of St. Mary's of the Assumption and back door meetings with the local precinct captain, who explained that he was being held because he did not have acceptable form of ID, the commander (Inspector Richard Bruno) agreed to release Carlos from custody. Carlos almost died. It would have been an unbearably high price to pay for the right to feed his family.

For the life of Carlos and the lives of all immigrants like him, I urge you to pass a Municipal ID program.

(Rev.) Liam Tomás O'Doherty, OSA



MasterCard New York Programs

We would ask the city to consider including a financial functionality option for the Municipal ID card as it provides its residents with far greater access to a suite of city and financial services than does an ID Only Card.

MasterCard Worldwide has maintained a significant presence in both NYC and NYS, since it was incorporated in 1965, with global headquarters in Purchase, New York and our new emerging payments location in the Flatiron district of NYC. In addition, MasterCard supports hundreds of New York small businesses through its supplier network and offers a variety of card solutions through its issuing partners globally.

Governments at all levels are adopting prepaid card solutions as they look to reduce costs and meet their mission objectives more effectively. Since the 1990s, governments have increasingly migrated to direct deposit and prepaid cards as a way to distribute more than \$140 billion in payments, grants, earned benefits and other disbursements each year. Today, virtually every state offers consumers electronic payment alternatives to replace costly traditional benefits checks such as child support, unemployment insurance and personal income tax refunds. In fact, even the U.S. Department of the Treasury has adopted the use of MasterCard's prepaid cards to replace benefits previously distributed to U.S. families and communities by check (www.godirect.org/media/retire-the-check). Paying benefits through MasterCard's prepaid card saves the U.S. federal government roughly \$1 per payment, adding up to millions of dollars in savings for American taxpayers each month!

To date, we have the following public sector programs branded MasterCard through our banking issuers with New York City and the State of New York:

Agency	Program	Partner Bank
New York State Insurance Fund (NYSIF)	Insurance Disbursements	Bank of America
NYS Office of Temp./Disability Assistance (OTDA)	Child Support Disbursements	Comerica Bank
NYS Department of Revenue	Personal Income Tax	Bank of America
NYS Department of Labor	Unemployment Insurance	JP Morgan Chase and Company
NYS Unified Court System	Juror Payment Card	Wells Fargo Bank
NYC Dept. of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS)	Purchasing/Travel Card	US Bank
NYC Dept. of Education (DOE)	Purchasing/Travel Card	Citibank

* Denotes a new program



MasterCard Financial Education & Inclusion

New York City can leverage the following assets for the proposed Identification card with payment functionality (a secure City ID Prepaid MasterCard).

Bridging the Financial Divide

In the United States, an estimated 9 million households do not have a savings or a checking account and another 21 million households have bank accounts but rely on costly alternative financial service providers such as payday lenders or check-cashing outlets. Globally, more than 3 billion people do not have access to basic financial services. This financial divide exists for many reasons. MasterCard seeks to improve the access to affordable and responsive financial products by advocating for healthy and responsible use of financial services to help low-income and marginalized households build and maintain assets.

Financial Inclusion through New Product Development & Innovation

MasterCard is committed to leveraging our insights, products and technologies to make commerce safer, faster, smarter and more accessible to everyone, everywhere—especially those who have been excluded from the global economy. As a leading information and technology company, MasterCard creates and deploys intelligent payment innovations that address the needs of the unserved and underserved. MasterCard has a longstanding commitment to furthering financial education and inclusion that builds trust between consumers and the MasterCard brand.

Recent activities include:

- Programs that deliver relevant financial education, especially on basic budgeting skills to help identify areas where cost savings and efficiencies can be achieved.
- Build trust through partnerships with local community leaders, recognized organizations and credible financial experts.
- Introduce reloadable prepaid cards as tools to assist in achieving financial goals.
- At the right time, deliver additional information to encourage efficient use of prepaid products to drive more value for the cardholder.

Financial Inclusion through Financial Literacy & Financial Education

In today's fast-paced and shifting global economy, understanding personal finance is more important than ever before, and yet there are thousands of Americans who still do not have the resources to do so. To educate and encourage responsible spending and financial management, MasterCard has developed financial literacy programs and tools such as MasterCard's **Smart Consumer**, **Are You Credit Wise?**, **Peace of Mind**, **Priceless Pointers**, **Community Financial Outreach Program** and many more. These programs are tailored to all age groups and the specific needs of diverse communities. Through its Community Financial Outreach Program alone, MasterCard has worked with more than 900 community organizations to provide more than 60,000 Americans with the day-to-day skills they need to help them track their spending, manage their family finances, create budgets, find ways to save money, and achieve the financial well-being and security that improves quality of life for families and communities.



MasterCard Worldwide

Continuing with MasterCard's long term focus on financial education for underserved communities, MasterCard is announcing two new programs and a new community partnership that will increase financial inclusion through financial literacy and education in communities across the U.S.

MasterCard Announces Your Money Smarter Program

Your Money Smarter (www.yourmoneysmarter.com) is a new regional financial inclusion & education program that delivers basic, relevant and useful tips about budgeting, tracking, saving and spending money and understanding financial management tools to communities in the U.S. via text message. Unbanked and banked consumers receive tips to learn more about responsible ways to manage their personal finances and accumulate and preserve assets. At present, content is offered in English and in Spanish and the scalable platform is being tested with 18 community organizations in the U.S. MasterCard plans to expand the program nationally later this year.

MasterCard Announces PayPerks for Public Sector Program

PayPerks for Public Sector (www.payperks.com) is an optional feature of MasterCard's federal, state and local government prepaid card programs. PayPerks for Public Sector fuses online education with sweepstakes-based incentives in order to provide consumers with information on the most effective use of their government-sponsored prepaid cards, as opposed to just a means to withdraw funds at an ATM. Cardholders can learn about topics such as the advantages of direct deposit over paper checks, how to make a signature transaction at point of sale, why and how to pay bills on their prepaid card, and what to do if they lose their card. Additional modules will be developed to meet the needs of specific benefits programs, including child support, unemployment insurance, tax refunds and others.

Financial Inclusion through Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development

To address the complex issues impacting youth and small businesses, MasterCard is committed to financial inclusion through the power of entrepreneurship and small business development. MasterCard's community investments focus on training the next generation of entrepreneurs, encouraging new small business development and providing existing small businesses with the tools, training and access to capital needed to thrive and grow.

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MANHATTAN TOGETHER

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I'm the Rev. Getulio Cruz, Pastor of Monte Sion Christian Church on the Lower East Side. I'm also a Leader in Manhattan Together and Metro IAF. We are a network of over 100 member congregations and other organizations in New York City. Our organizations represent tens of thousands of families of different racial, religious and socio economic backgrounds.

My fellow clergy in Metro IAF, and in the other churches in my council, the Assembly of Christian Churches, have heard too many stories of people's lives being disrupted by the lack of recognized ID. Men have been detained by the police, women have not been able to get in to the hospital for prenatal care, amongst many other serious problems.

This is why some Metro IAF member organizations started to produce their own IDs, We have worked with the police and other agencies in our communities to ensure they recognize these local IDs. Thousands of people's lives have improved as a result.

We strongly support the City producing its own ID that all New Yorkers can get. We also know these IDs must be and distributed in the right way. Standards must be strong enough to prevent fraud, but can't keep honest applicants from getting an ID. Law abiding New Yorkers must know that getting an ID will not place them in danger because of their immigration status or for any other reason.

Metro IAF is ready to work with the Mayor, Council, the Police and rest of the City to ensure these IDs are designed in a professional manner that will be useful to a wide variety of New Yorkers. We want to encourage thousands of our members to sign up for IDs. If it can be done securely, we would love to have city officials come to our congregations and perhaps public libraries, to sign people up there.

By working together, we can ensure these IDs make life better for thousands of New Yorkers.

Metro IAF (www.metro-iaf-ny.org) is a network of broad-based, non-partisan, multi-issue grassroots community organizations, each made up of congregations, schools, neighborhood and other organizations throughout the country, including in Manhattan, the South Bronx, East Brooklyn, and Queens.

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I'm Fredy Cruz-Martinez, a volunteer leader with Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services, Manhattan Together, and Metro IAF.

8 years ago, while coming home late from work, I was stopped by the police. They asked "did you hear the gunshot?" I said no. They asked to see my ID. I showed them my Mexican Consular ID. They said "this is fake." I was afraid because this was the only ID I had, and I thought they would take me to jail. Fortunately, all they did was search me, ask me a few questions, and let me go. But others haven't been so lucky. We've heard many stories of people in our community being taken to the precinct for hours when they couldn't produce an ID that the police recognized.

So, like Metro IAF member congregations Saint Joseph Patron in Bushwick, and Our Lady of Lourdes in West Harlem, we at Little Sisters started to produce our own ID's, like this one. We negotiated with the precincts in East Harlem. They were happy to recognize our IDs, as were the police in West Harlem and Bushwick. Local schools, hospitals, and other important agencies also recognized them. A local credit union even lets people open up an account with our ID.

However, while this helps a lot in our neighborhoods, outside it doesn't help as much.

This is why we strongly support the City producing a municipal ID that anyone who lives in New York City could get, and is recognized by all City agencies. We in Metro IAF want to work with the Mayor, Council and Police to make sure this ID is done right.

Everyone deserves this basic peace of mind.

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My name is Batya Miller. I am a leader in Manhattan Together and am here to talk about why it is important to apply for a municipal ID. This city program would finally give countless New Yorkers an important benefit they now lack. While it will certainly help vulnerable New Yorkers, like undocumented immigrants, the homeless and the formerly incarcerated, it would also improve my life and the lives of many others.

Like many other New Yorkers, I don't drive and I love living in a city where you don't need to. A driver's license has become the de facto photo ID all over the country. I've somehow managed to squeak by with my university library card (with a photo) and more recently my senior citizen Metrocard when I have been asked to show photo ID. Such situations have been stressful at times as not everyone readily accepted them.

I finally hit a brick wall several months ago when I went to return something at a major woman's clothing chain. They would not refund the credit charge, because they did not view either ID as official. I was not able to return the item and have never gone back to that store.

As a non-driver, I am really looking forward to receiving a NYC ID. The ID should be relatively easy to apply for, at community friendly places like libraries and congregations. It can then become a/the primary ID for the many non-drivers in this city (citizens and others). I know it will both simplify my life and link me in a small but significant way to other New Yorkers who contribute to the wonderful diversity of this great city.

South Bronx Churches

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Hello my name Lucio Escamilla. I'm a member of Immaculate Conception Church and a leader in South Bronx Churches and Metro IAF. I know personally how important it is that all New Yorkers have access to an ID that is recognized everywhere in this City.

In 2005, I was stopped by the police. They asked to see my ID. I showed them my Mexican Consular ID card, and a valid Michigan drivers license. They claimed that both were fake, and actually threw them on the ground.

They then took me to a holding cell for the night. The next day, the judge dismissed the case immediately and I was free to go, but I should not have had to spend the night in jail. My family should not have had to worry.

And I know many people in my community, and in my church, who have also spent a night in jail, only because they did not have a recognized ID.

The City of New York has to start to producing its own ID, so that this never has to happen again. People should not be taken to jail unnecessarily and police should be able to spend their time on real criminals.

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My name is Sue Dorn. I am a member of Central Synagogue and a leader in Manhattan Together and Metro IAF.

One hundred and ten years ago this summer a woman left the Ukraine with her three small children. She landed in Boston, made her way across the United States to Oregon, where she met her husband who had gone there the year before. He eventually became a citizen, but between raising their 11 children and helping with their small grocery store, she never had the opportunity. Although life was so much better in the United States, she was never completely comfortable because she was not a citizen. As a result, for most of her life she always carried her "Alien Registration Card"—this card! In the back of her mind she thought someone might pick her up and send her back to the Ukraine, separating her from her family and friends. This apprehension was so intense that she took the card with her to the hospital when she was on death's door step.

I have this card because she was my grandmother. Even as a small child, I understood her uneasiness and how much this card was a life line for her.

No one should have to walk the streets without recognized identification. Things happen—people get stopped, busses jump curbs, and in an era of increasing security, we all need ID to enter places where we have to go.

The lack of an easily accessible ID is a major problem for many, including: immigrants, students whose permanent residences are elsewhere, the elderly and those who do not drive. As an 80 year old, I won't be driving much longer and would find it helpful to have an easily attainable municipal ID rather than go through the hassle of dealing with New York State's DMV.

Metro IAF looks forward to working with the City to make sure this effort is implemented properly. Outreach will be necessary to convince all New Yorkers that its to their benefit to get these IDs. Only then will we be assured that there is no stigma attached to possessing the card. I will be among the first to be issued one. Like my grandmother, I will always carry it!



NYCLU

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**TESTIMONY OF JOHANNA MILLER
ON BEHALF OF THE NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION¹**

before

**THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION**

on

THE NEW YORK CITY IDENTIFICATION CARD (INTRO. 253)

April 30, 2014

The New York Civil Liberties Union respectfully submits the following testimony regarding the Council's consideration of Intro. 253, which would authorize creation of the New York City Municipal Identification Card.

With 50,000 members and supporters, the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) is the foremost defender of civil liberties and civil rights in New York State and a longstanding advocate for the rights of immigrants across New York State. We are also prominent advocates for protecting individuals' privacy from government intrusion and unnecessary risk.

The City Council's proposal to create a local identification card holds great promise for New Yorkers who lack personal identification or are unable to obtain it. Young people, the elderly, undocumented immigrants, the homeless, and transgender people face challenges in obtaining traditional identification documents that accurately reflect their residence and identity. The New York City ID (NYC ID) will remove some of the steepest barriers by permitting a wide range of documentation to be used as evidence of a person's identity and residence. The broad support for this legislation in the advocacy community is evidence of how imperative it is for our

¹ The NYCLU would like to thank Brooke Menschel for her assistance with this testimony.

city. The NYCLU supports creating a NYC ID that can enhance quality of life for all New Yorkers, but we caution the Council and the administration about threats to personal privacy and about ensuring the ID truly is accessible and attractive to everyone.

I. Benefits of NYC ID

We thank the City Council and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs for carefully considering how to make the NYC ID as useful and attractive as possible to a wide range of New Yorkers. The benefits of carrying a government identification card are wide-reaching: it simplifies interactions with various government agencies and facilitates private exchanges such as obtaining employment, receiving deliveries, purchasing prescription drugs, and engaging in banking and real estate transactions. Enhancing the card with other external benefits, such as access to Parks facilities and discounts at New York City cultural institutions will serve to attract a large and diverse pool of participants, ensuring the ID is safe and functional for all users.

It is of utmost importance that NYPD officers be trained to recognize, verify, and accept the NYC ID as proof of identity and residence. The first order of business for police officers in many street stops is to ask the person for ID. While there is no legal obligation to carry or present identification, a lack thereof can prolong a police encounter because the police might use lengthy alternative methods to verify that the person does not have an outstanding arrest warrant. Though it would be unlawful, this might include taking the person to the precinct. With the NYC ID, New Yorkers who are otherwise without photo identification can choose to avoid such a lengthy and complicated interaction with police.

Our recommendation for the Council is to ensure the ID is accepted by all city agencies. By including this requirement in the statutory language, the Council is ensuring that the NYC ID will outlive the current administration. We urge the City to work with the police department to ensure that all officers are trained on the NYC ID. Further, we encourage the Council and the administration to work with private institutions to ensure widespread acceptance and broad appeal to make the NYC as functional as possible.

II. Risks of NYC ID

Along with benefits, the NYC ID program has the potential to create serious risks for New Yorkers, and we commend the City Council for designing legislation that protects against these risks to the maximum extent possible. The NYCLU's primary concern is for the protection of NYC ID applicants' private, personal information. Closely linked with making the NYC ID appealing to broad communities is the City's promise that people's private information will not be entered into a database or shared with third parties. The best way to guarantee this level of protection, particularly when future administrations will inherit this program, is to prohibit retention of foundational documents. We applaud the Council for its legislation that prohibits retention of sensitive documents in conjunction with this program.

The foundational documents required to prove identity and residence to obtain an NYC ID are some of the most sensitive and private documents that people have in their possession. Passports, birth certificates, government benefit cards, social security and tax ID numbers, pay stubs, bank statements, and public school records are all permissible foundational documents under this bill. They are also the documents that people take the greatest care to protect and preserve from disclosure to third parties, including family members and close friends.² It is essential that the city takes maximum care in preserving the confidentiality and privacy of these documents.

New Yorkers are protective of their private information, and with good reason. Revelations about the NSA's domestic spying program and public outrage over the New York State Education Department's contract with data servicer InBloom³ speak loudly to the public's wariness about government abuse of privacy rights. In 2007, the NYCLU uncovered the NYPD's extensive database of all individuals subjected to a stop and frisk—their names, addresses,

² One particularly poignant example is in the case of transgender people seeking an NYC ID. The bill permits individuals to self-identify their gender on the ID card, which is an important public safety measure in addition to affirming the identity of our fellow New Yorkers. However, where foundational documents contain a different gender marker than that adopted by the applicant, the risk of disclosure ("outing") presents not only the threat of humiliation, but a serious safety risk given the historic violence against transgender people.

³ InBloom was a private, non-profit company granted a contract by the New York State Education Department (and several other states) for the building, population, and maintenance of a student data storage and retrieval system. Amid public outcry over privacy concerns, the New York State legislature voted in 2014 to strictly limit the use of such data services. Other states also canceled their agreements with the company in 2013 and 2014. InBloom has since announced it is winding down operations. See Natasha Singer, "Deciding Who Sees Students' Data," NY Times, Oct. 5, 2013. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/06/business/deciding-who-sees-students-data.html?_r=0

gender and other information—even for individuals who were innocent of all crimes. The Council must guard against creating any program that paves the way for expanding privacy intrusions.

We commend the Council for prohibiting the City from retaining the documents required to obtain an NYC ID. Retaining these documents in hard copy or digital format creates a completely unnecessary risk of disclosure, including the threats of identity theft, hacking, data mining by government or private entities, inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure under open records laws, and access by law enforcement agencies including the NYPD and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Retention of such documents would require the city to respond to voluminous record requests—even when those requests can be legally rejected.

Even where privacy exemptions exist, there is no guarantee that records access officers will consistently and properly comply with the law regarding disclosure of private information. The NYCLU has often received responses to FOIL requests that ignore statutory privacy exemptions under the Freedom of Information Law, failing to redact information that should be protected, either by mistake, carelessness, or ignorance of the law. The judgment of individual records officers should not be the only protection between a person's social security number and an unscrupulous requestor.

This threat is not abstract. In New Haven, Connecticut, anti-immigrant activists filed records requests for information on that city's municipal ID holders, indicating that they wished to provide the information to federal immigration authorities. New Haven officials defeated the request in court, but only after a judge acknowledged the safety implications for immigrant communities besieged by vigilante enforcers.

The real and immediate threat of exposure created by such a request would sharply damage the broad appeal of the municipal ID program that is so necessary for its success. This risk would surely affect the willingness to participate of both New Yorkers with access to other identification programs, and those for whom this program is the only option. A single high-profile request for records will be enough to scare away many potential applicants.

Our recommendation for the Council is to explicitly prohibit the retention of foundational documents provided by NYC ID applicants.

III. Training and Administration

The City has suggested that there may be a tension between making the NYD ID widely available through various government “storefronts,” and maintaining confidence that the employees administering the program will be adequately trained to assess the veracity of foundational documents. This is not a legitimate reason for retaining foundational documents, but rather suggests a lack of commitment to the proper training of the individuals who will administer the program. Government employees who do not receive the training required to identify questionable documents will most likely also lack the training needed to treat transgender, homeless, and undocumented applicants with dignity, humility, and respect. This is essential for the success of this program.

Our recommendation is that the city should not move forward without committing to properly training every employee who will receive NYC ID applications. If availability must be reasonably limited in order to ensure that New Yorkers interact with appropriately trained professionals, the city must err on the side of training—to both protect the privacy and preserve the dignity of all applicants.

We thank the Council for its work on this important program, and its proper focus on limiting the privacy risks faced by applicants. We look forward to working with the City to make a safe, secure, and meaningful NYC ID a reality.

Municipal IDs for New York City: Int. No. 253
Hearing of the New York City Council, April 30, 2014
Testimony of Emily Tucker, The Center for Popular Democracy

Good afternoon, and thanks to Councilman Menchaca and the Immigration Committee for convening today's hearing and for inviting me to testify on this important issue. My name is Emily Tucker and I am staff attorney at the Center for Popular Democracy in Brooklyn, where I support state and local initiatives to protect immigrant rights and promote racial and economic justice. One of the things that I have seen over and over again in the communities I work with is how seemingly small changes in circumstances can lead to huge improvements in the well being of individuals, families and whole cities. At CPD we look for initiatives like this which – often by simply removing obstacles to basic goods like health and security that most of us take for granted -- will enable people to live better lives. Municipal ID is one such initiative, and I am here today to voice my full support and the support of my organization for this legislation that would bring municipal ID cards to New York City.

Access to a widely accepted form of ID is a right, but increasingly in this country we treat it as a privilege – a privilege that tends to go along with other privileges— of race, of class and of citizenship. Many of us take ID so much for granted that we don't even realize how much we rely on it. Over last decade it has become increasingly crucial to have ID, increasingly difficult to get ID, and increasingly risky to share personal information with the government agencies that issue ID. At the same time, ID gate-keeps every aspect of daily life. Without the right form of ID you may not be able to open a bank account or even cash a check, see a doctor at a hospital, register your child for school, apply for public benefits, file a complaint with the police department, borrow a book from a library, vote in an election, or collect a package from the post office. Ironically, the very people who are most in need of such basic services are also those who have the most difficulty obtaining the proof of identity that will allow them to access those services.

In response to this problem, a wave of municipalities across the country have enacted local ID card programs, starting with New Haven, CT and now including San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond, and Los Angeles in California; Asbury Park and Mercer County in New Jersey; and Washington DC. Campaigns are also currently underway in cities as diverse as Phoenix, Philadelphia and Chicago. The programs in these jurisdictions take a variety of forms and have a range of different features tailored to the particular localities they serve. CPD has researched all of the existing programs, and we have identified several key features that we believe will be important for municipal ID cards to be successful here in New York City.

Accessibility

The first is accessibility. In order for a city ID to actually serve the purpose for which it is designed, it has to be more accessible than existing forms of state and federal ID, and that means the application process must be clear and simple, and the methods of proving residency and identity in order to qualify for the card must be flexible. This does not mean that the verification of identity and residency cannot be robust. It simply means that the program should be designed to fit with the particular circumstances

of those in this city who typically have trouble getting ID. Cities are positioned to carry out this kind of customization in a way that the federal and state governments are not. In New York City, there are several groups that would greatly benefit from the card, whose needs and circumstances the administration should take into consideration when designing the program. These include immigrants, the homeless, LGBTQ individuals, youth, and formerly incarcerated people.

Privacy

Privacy protection is also an extremely important feature of the gold standard municipal ID card programs. It is especially important that undocumented immigrants and other vulnerable populations feel secure that their private information will be protected. In order to protect against misuse of personal information, other jurisdictions, such as San Francisco, have policies against retaining the underlying records that an applicant uses to prove identity and residency after. We are glad to see that this bill would establish the same procedure here in New York. We also support the language in the legislation prohibiting the sharing any of information collected through the program with any State or Federal authorities absent a court order. Together, those two provisions will encourage vulnerable communities to apply for the NYC ID without fear of being tracked or targeted.

Broad Appeal

One of the risks of any municipal ID card program is that the card may come to have a “scarlet letter” effect, wherein an individual is assumed to be a member of one or more vulnerable groups simply by virtue of being a card-holder. The best way to avoid this potential problem is to ensure that the card appeals to and is adopted by as broad a cross section of the population as possible. Many jurisdictions, like Los Angeles and San Francisco, among others, are ensuring broad appeal by working with local business and cultural venues to offer incentives and discounts to cardholders. Our research also shows that aesthetics have a big impact on the perceived legitimacy and rates of adoption of the card. The card design should be sophisticated and visually appealing and the City’s marketing campaign should emphasize the benefits to average New Yorkers of obtaining the card.

Though there are many variables that can impact the success of a municipal ID card program, our research shows that these three are especially fundamental, and we are excited to see that the current draft bill addresses all three of these points. We are lucky to be in a position to learn from the other jurisdictions that have already implemented municipal ID card programs, and we have a chance to make the New York City card the best in the country.

Testimony in support of the NYC municipal ID card, April 30, 2014

John Jairo Lugo

Unidad Latina en Accion

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I am a founding member of Unidad Latina en Accion, a grassroots organization created in 2002 in New Haven, CT. At that time immigrant workers came together to seek driver's licenses, but the bill was defeated in the Connecticut legislature. After that defeat, we decided to create a platform of policies to make New Haven a model city for the integration of new immigrants into the social fabric.

One of the most innovative ideas was the creation of a municipal ID card. The reasons were clear. We did not have driver's licenses, but we needed IDs. Many of our members were detained by the police for simple traffic violations, but the police refused to release them for several days because they could not produce ID. Without ID, many immigrants could not open bank accounts, and they were targeted by criminals as "walking ATMs" because they carried cash. In 2006, one of our members was murdered during a robbery, and we could no longer stay silent.

We created alliances with other organizations in the city. We went to Junta for Progressive Action, a historically Puerto Rican organization. They were seeing an influx of new immigrants from Mexico since the free trade agreement had displaced many Mexican farmers and rural people. The director Kica Matos agreed to work with us on this platform.

We met with Mayor John DeStefano and he was open to the idea. He recruited Yale Law School for the legal research. They found that a municipal ID would not contradict federal or state law. Mayor DeStefano convinced different sectors of the city to support this project. The Board of Aldermen held several public hearings, and people from different neighborhoods came and supported the proposal.

Others questioned the idea. Anti-immigrant and neo-Nazi groups came from outside of New Haven to attack the city. They sent hate mail and death threats to city officials.

These white groups tried to rally the African American community against the immigrant community. They passed out flyers saying that immigrants were the cause of African American inequality. However, African Americans saw that immigrants were suffering the same abuses that they had suffered in the past, and they came out in support of the ID card. That is how the Board of Aldermen ended up voting 25-1 in favor of the ID, becoming the first city in the nation to create this initiative.

Two days later, federal immigration agents came to New Haven and raided the homes of immigrants and detained 29 people. We later confirmed through a lawsuit, that this ICE raid was an act of retaliation against the city. Days after the raid, diverse sectors of the city marched to denounce the raid: immigrants, African Americans, Puerto Ricans, Jews, people of faith, and city officials. They raised money to free all of the brothers and sisters who were detained.

A few weeks later, when New Haven began to issue ID cards, thousands got in line to get the document. They were not just Latinos, because people saw the ID card as a way to integrate a society that was segregated and divided. Since then, more than ten thousand people have applied for the ID.

The advantages are clear. Many people can now open bank accounts so they are not targeted by criminals. The relationship with the police has improved, because now we are citizens of the City of New Haven, and when we present this document, the police know that we belong to the city. People coming out of jail who have no documents can apply for the ID, and they can be integrated into the social fabric. High school students now have ID. We are One City. United we stand, divided we fall.



New York City Council – Immigration Committee – Municipal ID Hearing
Testimony from the New York Immigration Coalition
Delivered by Steven Choi, Executive Director

April 30th, 2014

Good Morning. My name is Steve Choi and I am the executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, an umbrella policy and advocacy organization that works statewide with nearly 200 immigrant-serving member organizations. Thank you to the members of the City Council and its Immigration Committee, chaired by Carlos Menchaca, for convening this important hearing on the proposed Municipal ID legislation, and for working hard to make sure such an ID would be a truly universal ID for all New Yorkers.

Today I am here to represent and speak on behalf of New York City's vibrant and diverse immigrant communities – both the estimated 500,000 undocumented residents of New York City, as well as the thousands of additional immigrants, even those with legal immigration status, who continue to face barriers to accessing a government-issued form of identification. We say unequivocally that the Municipal ID envisioned by this legislation - an ID available to all New Yorkers, regardless of status - would go a long way toward breaking down the stigmatizing barriers that prohibit immigrants from fully participating in the civic, cultural, and economic life of this City.

My testimony is informed by the NYIC's experiences with two citywide, Council-funded initiatives to engage and educate immigrant New Yorkers: the NYIC "Key to the City" consular ID initiative, and the DYCD Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (or DACA) initiative, which the NYIC coordinates. It is further informed by our work as a Coalition to convene various collaboratives of diverse immigrant groups that delve deep into critical areas of need in immigrant communities such as health access, civic engagement, and education. The crushing consequences of a lack of proper identification are a common theme in the work of these collaboratives. Time after time, we hear stories of individuals who do not have a document to prove identity at hospitals, of parents who cannot enter their child's school, of hardworking New Yorkers who cannot open bank accounts to protect their earnings and become the victims of crime.

But we've also seen how strong policy can make strides in breaking down these barriers. When the NYIC's Education Collaborative successfully advocated for the NYPD and the DOE to allow school safety agents to accept foreign passports and Consular ID cards, many undocumented parents received a new level of access to the everyday lives and participated deeply in the education of their children. From this policy change and the generous support of the City Council, the NYIC was able to begin the "Key to the City" consular ID initiative to work with the consulates of Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, and Peru to provide same-day mobile services for immigrants to obtain passports and consular IDs at schools in immigrant neighborhoods across all five boroughs. The fact that over 19,000 New Yorkers have attended these events to receive services, and nearly 13,000 have stood in line for hours to receive these critical identity documents speaks to the tremendous need in our communities. This past Sunday it was my pleasure to offer a tour of our latest event in Staten Island to the Speaker of City Council, Melissa Mark-Viverito, and Councilmember Debi Rose, who saw in person what a transformative

impact such documents can have for these New Yorkers. These consular ID events have not only shown the incredible need in immigrant communities, but alongside the DYCD DACA Initiative also provide a model structure for engaging multiple partners - community organizations, foreign consulates, elected officials, and schools in successfully reaching hard-to-reach and diverse communities. I cannot stress enough the importance of developing a similar model for Muni ID outreach to encourage the most participation possible and lend the initiative the trust it will need in immigrant communities.

I also want to emphasize today that perhaps the most important part for immigrant communities, is the fact that the best ID for immigrants will be an ID widely adopted by non-immigrants. The Muni ID cannot and should not be a proxy for undocumented status – we must not allow it to become a scarlet letter that only furthers the vulnerability of undocumented immigrants. It should instead be a badge of civic pride that unites all residents of this great city, and it will only be so if it is linked to a robust package of partnerships and tie-ins to discounts, privileges, and other benefits that will appeal to everyone – citizens, students, legal residents and undocumented immigrants alike. All municipal agencies and authorities should accept the card – particularly the NYPD – and a wide range of public and private institutions should be engaged as partners, such as banks, cultural organizations, libraries, and museums. To that end, we believe it will be critical to establish a joint taskforce of the Administration, City Council and community organizations to bring this robust package of partnerships to life.

And once our fellow NYC neighbors – immigrants and native-born alike – decide to sign up, we must ensure that the application and document verification process is as smooth, secure, and trustworthy as possible. City agencies and front-line staff must be properly informed on the uses of the card, able to troubleshoot problems, understanding of language access procedures, and sensitive to the unique needs of immigrant New Yorkers. Above all, the confidentiality of personal documents and information must be guaranteed. Our immigrant communities have been left beaten and bruised by rampant immigration enforcement, as parents, children, spouses, and friends are all left reeling after the deportation of a loved one and the fear that entire lives and dreams will be shattered in an instant. While New York City is one of the most welcoming cities in the nation for immigrants, there is still a stigma around government. The immigrant community needs to be assured that when they hand over a document to a City agency, these documents will be kept securely and safely from the prying eyes of immigration enforcement. We must acknowledge the fears of immigrant communities and work together to break them down and build back trust. Privacy must thus be maintained and legitimacy must be afforded to the program.

In conclusion, I applaud this Council and the de Blasio Administration for moving to make a New York City municipal ID a reality. In the face of federal inaction around immigration reform, it is municipal action like this that is the strongest solution. It supports our hard-working immigrants that offer so much to our City, while helping all New Yorkers by making our City safer and our communities more integrated. We at the Coalition look forward to working closely with the Administration and the City Council to do everything we can to make municipal IDs a reality, and I know I cannot wait to get my own New York City Muni ID! Thank you.



Testimony of Arely Gonzalez, member and leader of LGBTQ Project at MRNY
Municipal ID Hearing, 4/30/14
In support of Intro #253

Good morning. My name is Arely Gonzalez, and I'm a member of Make the Road New York. I know that the whole city is excited about the ID proposal the Mayor, Speaker, and City Council members are pushing. Thanks to Councilmembers Dromm and Menchaca for their leadership on this bill.

For immigrant communities and for transgender people, this initiative is very important because we want to count on having an identification that shows that we are residents of the State of New York. As we know, it's very hard to obtain an ID if you are undocumented like me, and many of us until this moment have not been able to get an ID and have not been able to come out of the shadows as a result. We are scared when we walk around and have to maybe talk to the police or maybe someone else.

As a member of the LGBTQ community this initiative is very important because as a transgender woman I do not have an ID that identifies me, with my name and gender. Many transgender women get made fun of when they are stopped by the police and asked for ID. They tell us that we aren't women and they make fun of us. Sometimes I do not carry my ID with my birth name and gender on it, out of fear and shame because I do not want anyone to see it.

This ID would make our lives easier. We'd have something we can show the police about who we are and that we can trust in. We would feel like a stronger part of New York City. We'd be able to get into places that we currently cannot. The ID must allow us to choose our gender identity. If this were not on the card it would not be useful to me because it would not represent me, and I wouldn't get one. I don't think other members of my community would either.

For all these reasons I think the municipal ID that allows people to affirm their gender identity would be a great step forward for NYC. We would be creating a better, safer, fairer city as a result. Thank you!

Buenos días. Mi nombre es Arely González y soy miembro de Se Hace Camino New York. Yo se que la ciudad entera esta emocionado con la propuesta del alcalde, portavoz, y concejales en la ciudad están empujando. Gracias también a los Concejales Dromm y Menchaca por su ayuda y liderazgo con esta propuesta.

Para comunidades inmigrantes y para personas transgeneras, esta iniciativa es muy importante porque queremos poder contar con una identificación que muestra que nosotros somos residentes del estado de NY. Como sabemos, es muy difícil obtener un ID si uno es indocumentado como yo, y muchas de nosotras no hemos podido

obtener un ID y salir de las sombras como resultado. Tenemos miedo de que cuando caminamos quizás vamos a tener que hablar con la policía o quizás con otra persona.

Como parte de la comunidad LGBTQ esta iniciativa es muy importante porque nosotras como mujeres Transgenero no contamos con un ID que nos identifique, con nuestros nombres y géneros correspondientes. También se reduciría los arrestos por falta de no contar con un ID. La implementación y el acceso a poder escoger nuestros nombres y géneros preferidos abriría más puertas a nuestras vidas como personas que formamos parte de la comunidad LGBTQ.

Como miembro de la comunidad LGBTQ esta iniciativa es muy importante para mí porque como mujer transgenera la gente se burlan de nosotras cuando nos paran la policía para pedir un ID. Ellos nos dicen que no somos mujeres, se burlan de nosotras. A veces no cargo mi ID que tiene mi nombre y género de nacimiento porque me da vergüenza la idea de que alguien lo podría ver.

Este ID haría nuestras vidas mucho más fácil. Tendríamos algo que podemos mostrar a la policía que muestra quien somos y que podemos confiar. Nosotras sentiríamos más parte de la ciudad, y lo haríamos más fuerte. EL ID tiene que dejarnos escoger nuestra identidad de género. Si eso no está en la tarjeta no creo que sería útil para mí o otras personas transgeneras.

Para todas esas razones creo que el ID municipal que deja a la gente afirmar el género que tienen sería una ayuda grande. Nos ayudaría a crear una ciudad más segura y justa como resultado. Gracias!



Testimony of Juan Carlos Gomez
4/30/14
In Support of Intro #253 Municipal ID

My name is Juan Carlos Gomez, member of Make the Road New York, and today I want to share with you all a small part of my personal story. I am the 2nd of 4 children who has been raised to be a professional, thanks to the effort of my parents who taught me the value of hard study and work. I am an undocumented immigrant from Colombia.

Living here in NYC, one time I was stopped by the police and they asked for my ID. I was nervous but also sure that I had done nothing wrong. The police looked over my ID and returned it saying, "be careful." I felt calm knowing I had been treated well.

But that changed when I went to a public office later on, my ID was retained because it was no longer valid since it had expired and no one was going to renew it. That instant I was treated with indifference and ignored simply because I was an immigrant, lost the dignity and respect I had been treated with. That day I became undocumented. And I went into the shadows like so many other undocumented people.

My world changed and my reality changed, as simple a thing as not being able to buy medicine for my allergies because I didn't have an ID. Without an ID I couldn't rent a place to live and I ended up paying more because of that.

My life continued like that, with the same fear of being stopped by the police without ID, being treated differently, I felt discriminated against now that I could not enter a building, a school, even work sometimes. Simply because of a lack of ID. And always thinking about what my parents taught me about perseverance, and hard work. Now, as a member of this organization, I'm starting to fight for our dignity and for the dignity of all those without ID, and I know that with the help of all of you we're going to build the best ID program in the country.

In order to gain the acceptance of undocumented people who have little trust in the government anyway it is very important that we have an ID that protects our privacy and information. We need to know that we are safe giving our information over. That is crucial to be able to build the necessary trust with the immigrant community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mi nombre es Juan Carlos Gómez, miembro de The Make the Road NY, hoy quiero compartir con ustedes un pedazo de mi historia personal. Soy el 2 de 4 hijos todos profesionales, gracias al esfuerzo de mis padres que me inculcaron el estudiar y el trabajar fuerte.

Viviendo aquí en NY, Una vez me detuvo la policía y me pidieron mi ID, yo me sentí algo inquieto pero seguro de que no había hecho nada malo, el policía reviso mi I.D, ... me lo devolvió diciendo,ve con cuidado. Me sentí tranquilo, seguro, tratado con dignidad y respeto.

Pero esto cambio cuando en una oficina pública mi ID., fue retenido porque ya no era valido por estar vencido y no me lo iban a renovar.

Ese día en un instante fui tratado con indiferencia ignorado por el simple hecho de ser inmigrante, la dignidad y el respeto con que fui tratado dejo de existir por no tener un I.D, valido, ese día me convertí en indocumentado. Y pase a la sombras como tanto otros indocumentados.

Mi mundo cambio y mi realidad se hizo otra; tan simple como que no podía comprar medicina para mi alergia por que no tenia un ID, valido, Sin ID. No podía rentar un lugar para vivir y debía pagar un sobreprecio por el mismo. No podía acceder los servicios públicos (luz, gas, calefacción) por que no tenia un ID.

Así continúe mi vida pero ahora con temor, a ser parado por la policía y sin ID., ser tratado diferente, sentí lo que nunca había sentido la discriminación ya no podía acceder a un edificio, a una escuela, aun trabajo. Simplemente porque no tenía un ID. valido. Pero el legado de mis padres sobre mi perdura....y es la perseverancia, el trabajo duro y digno. Y como miembro de esta organización, se que vamos a crear el ID mas fuerte de todo el país.

Para poder ganar aceptación de la comunidad indocumentada que tiene poca confianza en el gobierno es muy importante que el ID proteja nuestra información y privacidad. Tenemos que saber que somos seguros cuando damos nuestra información al gobierno. Es critico que esto sea parte del ID para poder construir la confianza necesaria con la comunidad inmigrante.

Gracias por la oportunidad de testificar.



Testimony of Jesus Castellanos

4/30/14

In Support of Intro. #253

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Jesus Castellanos and I'm 17 years old, and a youth member of Make the Road New York. At 14 years old I arrived in the US with my brother from Oaxaca, Mexico, looking for a better future and with the dream that I would be able to get a better education and become a professional. With all this, I have not been able to achieve my dreams since I came to the US of studying because I have not had sufficient money to learn the language and finish high school.

I have dedicated myself to working with my brother since I've been here, washing dishes in order to survive. Going to school would have helped me to continue with my dreams but also could have got me some type of identification that I could have used in the case of any emergency or stop and frisk. I live in a neighborhood where many police are constantly stopping and frisking young people and I'm always afraid when they pass close to me that they will stop me and ask me for identification.

One afternoon I decided to go to the park to relax, and a group of people came up to me and told me I had to give them my cell phone. I first told them no, but then they threatened me and I gave it to them hoping they would leave me alone. In that moment they started to hit me hard and they broke my jaw. My brother took me to the hospital. In that moment we were scared to say anything to the authorities out of fear of being deported to Mexico. I had no ID, I didn't want to approach the police.

As a young person I think it's not right that I should be afraid to report something like that to the police out of fear of what could happen to me, just because I didn't have a valid identification. Now I know that you don't need documents, but I know there are many others like me out there who think the same thing. That's why I think we should create a municipal ID, so that people like me can feel safer and confident when things happen to us.

Buenas días y muchas gracias por la oportunidad de testificar. Mi Nombre es Jesús Castellanos, tengo 17 años de edad y soy un joven líder de Se Hace Camino Nueva York. A los 14 años de edad junto con mi hermano llegamos a Estados Unidos de Oaxaca, México, buscando un mejor futuro y con el sueño de que iba poder tener una mejor educación y llegar a ser un profesional. Mas sin embargo, desde que llegue a Estados Unidos cumplir mis sueños de estudiar no se han podido cumplir por lo que no he tenido suficiente dinero para aprender el idioma y el apoyo para terminar la preparatoria.

Por lo tanto desde que llegue a Estados Unidos, me he dedicado fuertemente a trabajar con mi hermano, lavando platos para poder sobrevivir. Haber ido a la escuela no solamente me hubiera ayudado a seguir adelante con mis metas pero también me hubiera proveído algún tipo de identificación oficial que pueda ser usado en caso de una emergencia o de ser Parado Y Requisado. Yo vivo en un barrio en el que los policías constantemente están Parando y Requisando jóvenes solamente y siempre tengo miedo de que me vayan a Parar, Requisar y preguntarme por identificación esta presente.

Una tarde decidí ir a parque un rato a descansar, con mi hermano cuando un grupo de personas se acercaron a mi a decirme que tenia que entregarles mi celular. Al principio dije que no les iba entregar mi teléfono, pero después con temor se los entregue esperando de que me iban a dejar tranquilo. En el momento en que les di mi celular, me comenzaron a golpear fuertemente y me quebraron la mandíbula. Rápidamente mi hermano corrió a llevarme al hospital. En ese momento mi hermano y yo teníamos miedo de que al reportar el asalto nos fueran a deportar a México. No tenia identificación, no quería hablar con la policía.

Como joven que vive constantemente en lugares donde la policía esta presente Parando y Requisando jóvenes el temor es constante de que me puedan hacer lo mismo, pero es indignante que después de ser asaltado yo quiera acudir a la policía para denunciar lo que me paso y no pueda hacerlo por el temor de que me puedan deportar solo porque no tengo una identificación valida. Ahora se que para poner una demanda no se necesita documentación, pero muchas personas no lo saben, pasar el ID Municipal le devolvería la confianza a jóvenes indocumentados como yo para poder hablar de los abusos que ocurren en las calles y no sufrir en silencio.



THE COALITION FOR ASIAN AMERICAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**New York City Council
Committee on Immigrant Services
Intro 253 – New York City Identity Cards
April 30, 2014**

**Testimony of Marissa Martin
Director of Government Affairs, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families**

Good afternoon. My name is Marissa Martin, and I am the Director of Government Affairs for the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families. We would like to thank Immigration Chair Menchaca and members of Immigration Committee for holding this important hearing on the creation of a New York City Identity Card.

Since 1986, CACF is the nation's only pan-Asian children's advocacy organization, and works to improve the health and well-being of Asian Pacific American (APA) children and families in New York City in three key policy areas: education, health and child welfare. CACF challenges the stereotype of Asian Pacific Americans as a "model minority" and advocates on behalf of underserved families in our community, especially immigrants struggling with poverty and limited English skills. We work with our membership of over 50 community based organizations to promote better policies, funding, and services for East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander children, youth, and families.

CACF also co-leads the 13% and Growing Coalition, a group of over 45 Asian led and serving organizations that work together to ensure that New York City's budget protects the most vulnerable Asian Pacific American New Yorkers. Coalition members employ thousands of New Yorkers and serve hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. Currently, the Asian Pacific American community is by percentage the fastest growing group in New York City, nearly doubling every decade since 1970, and is 13% of the population. Unfortunately, current levels of public funding and resources for the Asian Pacific American community remain disproportionate to our community's needs.

- 78% of the APA community is foreign born.
- 1 out 5 APA children live in poverty.
- 26% of APA live in poverty, the second highest of all racial groups in NYC.
- APAs have the highest rate (42%) of linguistic isolation meaning that no one over the age of 14 in a household speaks English well.
- 1 out of 4 APA high school students does not graduate on time.
- 1 out of 8 APAs in NYC are uninsured.

NEW YORK CITY IDENTITY CARDS

CACF is supportive of Intro 253, to create New York City Identity Cards, to not only provide an opportunity for all New Yorkers to hold a legal municipal ID, but also help facilitate integration into the city by strengthening New Yorkers interaction with government agencies, increase participation in the economy and financial institutions and participate in the many cultural institutions New York City has to offer.

This identity card would benefit numerous populations throughout the city who are excluded or often forced to engage in illegal activity to procure fraudulent identification in order to interact with the government because they don't have a government issued ID. The New York City Identity Card would benefit many including youth, many low-income individuals, undocumented or out of status immigrants, seniors or individuals who were previously involved with the criminal justice system.

KEY ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

While we support the creation of New York City Identity Cards, we ask members of the New York City Council Committee on Immigration and the greater City Council to consider the following:

Partner with Community Based Organizations in Marketing, Education and Outreach Campaigns

- ❖ In order for New York City Identity Cards to be widely accepted, there needs to be a strategic, comprehensive marketing and outreach campaign that engages all New Yorkers that are eligible for the New York City Identity Card and also educates government agencies, businesses and cultural institutions that will be expected to accept the New York City Identity Card as a valid ID.
- ❖ **Community Based Organizations are embedded in neighborhoods and are often multi-service providers who provide culturally competent, language accessible services.** By engaging CBO's, the communities will learn about the benefits of the New York City Identity Card.

Ensure the Application Process Remains Confidential

- ❖ We agree that the New York City Identity Card should offer robust benefits, however it is critical that all documents and information during the application for the New York City Identity Card and subsequent enrollment in benefits, remain confidential and will not be disclosed to government entities or private parties unless authorized in writing.

Ensure the Enrollment of the New York City Identity Card is Language Accessible

- ❖ With over 78% of the Asian Pacific American population foreign born, it is critical that the New York City Identity Cards are marketed and enrolled in a culturally competent, language accessible manner. This includes ensuring that any protections or privacy policy is available in multiple languages.

Clarify Residency Language

- ❖ While we would like to see the New York City Identity Card available to all residents of New York City, we ask the City Council to clarify the proof of residency bill language. As it reads now, it is unclear how long an individual must live in New York City to be eligible for the Identity card.

Ensure Proper Implementation

- ❖ **Diverse Enrollment Sites**-We urge the City to not only partner with existing government agencies as enrollment sites, but also to partner with Community Based Organizations to ensure the purpose and benefits of the Identity card are widely shared throughout the city.
- ❖ **Proper Education** -It is critical that all city agencies, front -line staff and businesses who will be interacting with New Yorkers holding this ID must be properly informed of the uses of the card, its legitimacy as a form of identification, what it looks like, how it can be utilized and relevant issues affecting cardholders to ensure smooth implementation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and we look forward to working with the City Council to ensure that the New York City Identity Cards are rolled out successfully throughout New York City.



**Testimony on Int. No. 253: A local law to amend the administrative code of the city of
New York, in relation to the creation of a New York City identity card program**

**Submitted to
NYC Council, Committees on Immigration**

**Submitted by
Jessica Orozco, Esq.
Director of Immigration and Civic Engagement
Hispanic Federation**

April 30, 2014

Good morning, my name is Jessica Orozco and I am the Director of Immigration and Civic Engagement at the Hispanic Federation (HF). Chairman Menchaca and members of the Council's Committee on Immigration, on behalf of HF, I thank you for bringing us together today and affording us the opportunity to express our need for a municipal identification card for all New Yorkers.

HF is the premier Latino membership organization in the nation and was founded to address the many inequities confronting Latinos and the nonprofits that serve them. For more than 20 years, Hispanic Federation has provided grants, administered human services and coordinated advocacy for our broad network of agencies that serve more than 2 million Latinos in areas of health, education, economic empowerment, immigration and civic engagement.

I would like to start off by stating that HF enthusiastically supports the proposed municipal ID legislation. Without accepted documentation, New Yorkers cannot file police complaints, open bank accounts, enter public buildings - liberties we could not live without, but take for granted on a daily basis. The creation of a municipal ID would eradicate those barriers and allow all members of our community to fully function in society. Those that stand to benefit the most from this new program are those that are unable to access recognized forms of ID, most notably our undocumented immigrant community. However, other marginalized groups would greatly benefit from this program as well, homeless, LGBTQ, youth and seniors.

Our member agencies are located within the heart of Latino communities throughout the City and witness the difficulty New Yorkers encounter when attempting to obtain a widely accepted

photo ID. With member agencies like Spanish Speaking Elderly Council (RAICES) and Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, which provide access to essential senior services, we see how difficult it is for the City's elderly to acquire photo identification.

For example, in New York, for a US born citizen to obtain a non-driver ID card, they must show their birth certificate, passport or military photo ID to prove date of birth. Seniors living in the City may have been born at home and never obtained a birth certificate, or the certificate may have been lost or destroyed over the decades. Additionally, elderly New Yorkers may have disabilities that prevent them from getting to the DMV or the few agencies that may assist them in getting these documents reissued.

In fact, 18% of all seniors do not have picture IDs. Oftentimes, seniors utilize Medicare or social security cards as forms of identification. Although acceptable for certain purposes, these forms of ID lack an important feature – a photo for identification. They also lack the address of the beneficiary. Since seniors are among the most vulnerable to accidents and emergencies, it is essential that they carry photo ID that includes an address to accurately and quickly identify the individual. ID that includes a photo, the holder's name, address and birthday are the most useful forms of information to paramedics in a medical emergency.

This municipal ID will not only provide a sense of security for all New Yorkers, but will provide numerous benefits to use throughout the city. All of us - low-income individuals, seniors and undocumented immigrants - deserve easy accessibility to identification, heightening safety and equality in our great city.

TESTIMONY

New York City Council

Committee on Immigration



199 Water Street
New York, NY 10038

April 30, 2014

Contact: Jojo Annobil (212) 577- 3292; jannobil@legal-aid.org
The Legal Aid Society, Civil Practice, Immigration Law Unit



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY
COUNCIL -PRESENTED ON APRIL 30, 2014

This testimony is submitted on behalf of The Legal Aid Society (“Legal Aid”). We commend Committee Chair Carlos Menchaca and members of the Committee on Immigration for their insightful and innovative work on behalf of New York City immigrants. We thank the New York City Council’s Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI) for its support of The Legal Aid Society’s comprehensive legal assistance for immigrants in all five boroughs.

The Legal Aid Society supports the New York City Council’s proposed amendment to the New York City Administrative Code to provide municipal identity cards to all residents of New York City. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in today’s hearing because it reflects the City Council’s understanding of the needs of undocumented New York immigrants and other vulnerable populations in the city. New York City has always been cognizant of the needs of its vibrant but vulnerable immigrant populations. Immigrants add to the creativity, social and economic fabric of this vibrant City and the Society is pleased that the City Council is committed to ensure that immigrants are integrated into their communities.

The Legal Aid Society

The Legal Aid Society, the nation’s oldest and largest not-for-profit legal services organization, is more than a law firm for low-income families and individuals who cannot afford to pay for counsel. It is an indispensable component of the legal, social and economic fabric of New York City – passionately advocating for low-income individuals and families across a variety of civil, criminal and juvenile rights matters, while also fighting for legal reform. Legal Aid has performed this role in City, State and federal courts since 1876. With its annual caseload of more than 300,000 legal matters, Legal Aid takes on more cases for more clients than any other legal services organization in the United States, and it brings a depth and breadth of perspective that is unmatched in the legal profession. Legal Aid’s law reform social justice representation for clients also benefits some two million low-income families and individuals in New York City and the landmark rulings in many of these cases have a national impact. Legal Aid does this with a full-time staff of more than 1,900, including more than 1,100 Legal Aid Society lawyers working with nearly 800 social workers, investigators, paralegals and support and administrative staff through a

network of borough, neighborhood, and courthouse offices in 26 locations in New York City. Legal Aid's legal program operates three major practices – Civil, Criminal and Juvenile Rights – and receives volunteer help from law firms, corporate law departments and expert consultants that is coordinated by the Society's Pro Bono program. For the last annual reporting period, law firm attorneys and paraprofessionals donated over 90,000 hours of pro bono service to the Society's clients and the total valuation of pro bono services contributed to Legal Aid nearly \$70 million. The Society's Civil Practice provides comprehensive legal assistance in legal matters involving housing, foreclosure and homelessness; family law and domestic violence; income and economic security assistance (such as unemployment insurance benefits, federal disability benefits, food stamps, and public assistance); health law; immigration; HIV/AIDS and chronic diseases; elder law for senior citizens; low-wage worker problems; tax law for low-income workers; consumer law; education law; community development opportunities to help clients move out of poverty; and reentry and reintegration matters for clients returning to the community from correctional facilities. Typically, clients seek assistance from the Civil Practice after exhausting all other avenues for assistance. The Society's Civil Practice is the safety net when all other safety nets fail. During the past year, our Civil Practice worked on more than 48,000 individual cases and legal matters, including 5,800 Superstorm Sandy cases, benefiting nearly 119,000 low-income children and adults, with an additional two million low-income New Yorkers benefiting from our law reform and class action litigation.

Immigration Law Unit

Although Legal Aid has evolved since its establishment in 1876 as a German immigrant-rights organization, it has not wavered in its commitment to immigrants and immigrant communities in New York City. For several decades Legal Aid has maintained a robust and nationally-recognized Immigration Law Unit based in the Civil Practice. The Unit provides low-income New Yorkers with free comprehensive and high caliber immigration services ranging from deportation defense to adjustment of status to Legal Permanent Residence and citizenship applications. The Unit specializes in the intersection between immigration and criminal law and works collaboratively with all practice areas to serve the Society's diverse immigrant clients through a comprehensive service model. Staff in the Unit represent immigrants before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration

Services (USCIS), before immigration judges in removal proceedings, the Board of Immigration Appeals and in federal court on habeas corpus petitions and petitions for review, and on administrative and judicial appeals. The Unit also partners with 14 community-based organizations in New York City to provide application assistance, comprehensive advice and workshops to low-income immigrants, refugees and asylees. .

Homeless Rights Project

The mission of the Society's Homeless Rights Project is to ensure that the right to shelter for homeless families and individuals in all five boroughs of New York City is real, and not just a paper right. Since modern homelessness first emerged in the late 1970s, the Society has been at the forefront of the fight to protect these most vulnerable members of New York City's community. The Society has served as counsel to the Coalition for the Homeless and for homeless women and men since the initial rulings in the landmark cases *Callahan v. Carey* and *Eldredge v. Koch*, in which a 1981 consent decree established a right to shelter for all homeless men and women in New York City. For nearly three decades, the Society has also been counsel in the McCain/Boston litigation in which a final judgment requires the provision of lawful shelter to homeless families with children.

We Support the New York City Identity Card Program (Int. No. 253)

We commend the New York City Council's initiative to create a municipal identity for all New Yorkers. Undocumented immigrants who lack identity documents are frequently exploited because of their lack of status, and are often afraid to report criminal activity or labor or housing violations for fear of arrest and deportation. Their inability to access financial institutions make them targets for robbery and assault. The City Council's proposed local law will take an important step toward addressing these concerns, as well as similar concerns by members of other vulnerable populations served by the Society, including the homeless, runaways, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) individuals and individuals re-entering society after jail sentences.

Making it possible for undocumented New Yorkers to obtain an identity card acceptable by City agencies will not only provide an official form of identification for residents who lack

identification but also improve public safety. Undocumented immigrants, especially victims of, domestic violence, youth abused by their parents or guardians, workers exploited by their employers, transgender individuals who are the target of hate crimes, will have less reason to fear contacting law enforcement officials and reporting these incidents and violations. The issuance of city identity cards will also facilitate the ability of police officers to identify crime victims, witnesses and suspects and root out crime in our communities.

To foster improved communication and understanding between the police and immigrants, we urge the Council to obligate the New York Police Department to accept the city identity cards as proof of identity. The Police Department routinely fingerprint New York city residents who cannot provide identity documents in connection with, non criminal offenses such as having an open container of alcohol, riding a bicycle on a sidewalk or taking an extra seat on the subway pursuant to Criminal Procedure Law section 160.10(2)¹. Acceptance of the municipal cards by the Police Department will reduce the number of undocumented immigrants who are fingerprinted and subsequently swept into the deportation pipeline for having committed a non-criminal offense.

Expanding the benefits of the proposed city identity card by promoting acceptance of the municipal identity documents by banks and other public and private institutions will be of tremendous benefit to undocumented immigrants. The inability of undocumented immigrants to access financial institutions results in the payment of costly fees to cash checks and send remittances abroad. Having access to financial institutions will allow undocumented immigrants to open bank accounts and to establish credit in order to start a business or to sustain a business.

Homeless residents of this city, many of whom are served by the Society, often lack identification either due to robbery, theft or the loss of their belongings because of homelessness. Without

¹ NYCPLS 160.10 Fingerprinting; duties of police with respect thereto. 2. In addition, a police officer who makes an arrest for any offense, either with or without a warrant, may take or cause to be taken the fingerprints of the arrested person if such police officer: (a) Is unable to ascertain such person's identity; or (b) Reasonably suspects that the identification given by such person is not accurate; or (c) Reasonably suspects that such person is being sought by law enforcement officials for the commission of some other offense.

identification, many are unable to access public benefits or shelter to which they are entitled. It is encouraging to note that the proposed law provides flexibility to the Mayor's office of operations, tasked to implement this law, to create alternative methods by which homeless persons can demonstrate residency in the City.

Although the list of identity documents required to obtain the city identity document is exhaustive, we recommend that the Mayor's office accept other secondary evidence such as birth certificates for US citizen children listing the names of parents, marriage certificates, tax returns, selective service registration, and any certified documents issued by a foreign consulate.

While Legal Aid applauds the City Council's initiative, we also urge that the Council should ensure that the municipal identity card has broad appeal beyond the immigrant population. It must be made attractive for use by a substantial and diverse population other than the vulnerable populations previously mentioned. Limited use of these cards may make undocumented and vulnerable city residents targets for discrimination. Having these identity cards serve as library cards, high school identity documents, or identity documents for City University students could serve that purpose.

Conclusion

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important issue and we greatly appreciate the Council's efforts to enact this legislation to protect our clients. New York State has always welcomed immigrants with open arms. Passing this local law would demonstrate the City's commitment to undocumented immigrants who continue to wait in limbo for immigration reform at the federal level. We welcome any questions from the panel.

The Legal Aid Society

By: Jojo Annobil

Care for the Homeless Testimony Supporting Municipal ID Legislation
By Jeff Foreman, Care for the Homeless Policy Director
Presented to New York City Council Committee on Immigration
Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Chairman Menchaca and Members of the New York City Council Immigration Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of Intro 253, the proposed New York City Identity Card legislation.

If Municipal ID legislation did no more than assist in documenting undocumented non-citizens, so many of them our clients at Care for the Homeless, to more fully and conveniently allow their participate in the life and energy that is New York City, then it would be a wonderful, visionary piece of important legislation we would enthusiastically support. But it promises far more even than assistance to our perhaps more than half-a-million undocumented neighbors.

It promises aid to so many people buffeted by life changes and disruptions, displacement and any of a multitude of interruptions or calamities that often result in destroying, misplacing or losing important documents. It offers support to people displaced by fire, storm or mayhem; a helping hand to many sick or elderly who have lost documents; and certainly relief to many people experiencing homelessness.

For all these people – and others a municipal ID might offer relief – why wouldn't we want to support our neighbors in need?

Among our own clients we often hear stories of undocumented immigrants or people who have lost IDs through disruptions who are in need of this legislation and would deeply value it.

This legislation is wisely written to require that the city not just appropriately issue city resident IDs, but also vigorously promote acceptance of the municipal ID program by banks and public and private institutions. This legislation holds out the hope that people who suffer poverty need not be excluded from New York's

cultural institutions, libraries, arts, and especially neighborhood banking that so many low-income people desperately need but can't access.

We also applaud the provision in this legislation that rightly authorizes people temporarily housed in city shelters to establish residency with documentation from the shelter. Unstably housed people are deeply challenged in life, but they must not lose their rights or be treated as lesser based on their poverty or misfortune.

Municipal ID legislation can help avoid the stigma so many vulnerable people face: from those who have the availability only of a prison ID that punishes them far beyond their term of incarceration, to transgender people struggling to establish their real identity, to those stigmatized simply because they have no accepted ID card, a New York City resident identification program offers relief and a measure of dignity too often unavailable to them today.

Government residency ID programs have been around and used in significant numbers for the better part of a decade. They have stood the test of time without, in any meaningful numbers, resulting in the kind of problems those desperately in search of a reason to oppose this community service program are seeking. It raises concerns about the rationale for opposition.

I do not question any individual's good intentions or personal motivation, and certainly appreciate other points of view, but I would point out that people are not "illegal" – nor are they without identity merely because they are without an official ID - and just as stigmatizing as calling people illegal, or barring people from full participation and dignity in our city is harmful – that is precisely how valuable a municipal ID program can and will be.

Thank you to Council Speaker Mark-Viverito, Chairman Menchaca, Chairman Dromm, and all the great supporters of this legislation and the dignity of vulnerable people on this City Council, as well as to Mayor de Blasio, for standing up for people in need, people like our 10,000 patients at Care for the Homeless, and so many of our New York neighbors who will benefit through your efforts.



Testimony Regarding Int. No. 253 and the Creation of a New York City Identity Card Program

Before the New York City Council
Committee on Immigration
April 30, 2014

Noah E. Lewis, Esq.
Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

On behalf of Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, I would like to thank the Committee on Immigration for holding this hearing. Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, or TLDEF, is a nonprofit law office located in Manhattan. TLDEF is committed to ending discrimination based upon gender identity and expression and to achieving equality for transgender people through public education, test-case litigation, direct legal services, and public policy efforts.

Transgender New Yorkers Face Obstacles to Obtaining Accurate Identity Documents

Existing identity document policies often make it difficult for transgender individuals to be issued ID that accurately reflects who they are. While proof of surgery has largely been removed as a requirement for updating sex designations on identity documents, a letter from a medical provider is still required to update one's New York state ID¹, Social Security records², U.S. Passport³ or USCIS immigration documents.⁴ Many transgender New Yorkers have difficulty satisfying these requirements or affording these documents.

And for individuals born in New York city or state, proof of genital surgery in the form of a doctor's letter and a detailed operative report are still required to correct the sex on a birth certificate. Most transgender New Yorkers have inaccurate birth certificates because eight out of

¹ Memorandum from Patricia B. Adduci, Comm'r, N.Y. Dep't of Motor Vehicles, to All Issuing Officers (Apr. 29, 1987), available at <<http://nmtg.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/DMVGenderChangeMemo.pdf>>.

² RM 10212.200 *Changing Numident Data for Reasons other than Name Change*, Soc. Sec. Admin, available at <<https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms.nsf/lnx/0110212200>> (last updated Sept. 30, 2013).

³ 7 U.S. Department of State *Foreign Affairs Manual* 1300 Appendix M, available at <<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/143160.pdf>>.

⁴ U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, *Adjudication of Immigration Benefits for Transgender Individuals; Addition of Adjudicator's Field Manual (AFM) Subchapter 10.22*, <<http://www.uscis.gov/iframe/ilink/docView/AFM/HTML/AFM/0-0-0-1/Chapter10-22.html>>.

ten transgender women and nine out of ten transgender men⁵ have not had the surgeries currently required to update their birth certificates.

Accurate Identity Documents are Vital for Transgender New Yorkers

Due to discrimination in housing, employment and education, transgender people are disproportionately unemployed, HIV+ and homeless.⁶ Barriers to accurate identity documents further marginalize this already vulnerable population. When transgender people are forced to present incorrect ID, they are subject to harassment, discrimination, and accusations of fraud. Incorrect ID leads to employment discrimination. And transgender people with incorrect ID can be turned away from receiving vital public services, such as Food Stamps, cash assistance, and HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) benefits.

Self-Attestation Regarding Sex Designation

In light of the above, TLDEF strongly supports the proposed policy in Int. No. 253 to make the sex designation on the NYC identity card self-designated. An individual's sex is best determined by that individual. While many physical factors comprise one's sex such as chromosomes, hormone levels, secondary sex characteristics, reproductive organs, the most important factor is one's brain sex. An individual can readily attest to whether they identify as male or female, and a medical provider is not required for this assessment.

The city of New York already allows New Yorkers to self-designate their sex in other contexts, such as placement in single-sex homeless shelters. Department of Homeless Services policy provides that transgender clients should have appropriate access to bathrooms and showers, and that residents may dress in accordance with their gender identity, regardless of what sex is listed on their ID.⁷

The New York City Commission on Human Rights also recognizes that transgender individuals may access single-sex facilities according to their affirmed sex and that asking for identification to do so is evidence of discrimination under the New York City Human Rights Law.⁸

⁵ Grant, Jamie M. *et al.*, Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Non-Discrimination Survey, at 79, National Center for Transgender Equality (2011).

⁶ Grant, Jamie M. *et al.*, Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Non-Discrimination Survey, National Center for Transgender Equality (2011), *available at* endtransdiscrimination.org/PDFs/NTDS_Report.pdf.

⁷ NYC Department of Homeless Services, Division of Adult Services, *Transgender/Intersex Clients*, Procedure 06-1-31 (2006) (available at http://www.masstpc.org/publications/NY_trans_shelter_Policy.pdf).

⁸ New York City Commission on Human Rights, *Guidelines Regarding Gender Identity Discrimination, a Form of Discrimination Prohibited by The New York City Human Rights Law*, 5 (2006) (http://www.nyc.gov/html/cchr/downloads/pdf/publications/GenderDis_English.pdf) (“Requiring individuals to provide identification as a means of identifying their gender before allowing them to use the restroom or other sex-segregated facility” suggests discriminatory conduct has occurred.)

Globally, a model policy is that of Argentina, which allows individuals to change the sex designation on their national ID card and birth certificate through self-attestation.⁹

Need to Clarify Language on Knowingly Presenting False Information

Section 3-139 of Int. No. 253, which makes it a misdemeanor to knowingly present false information in the course of applying for such a card may work to undermine the policy on self-attestation of gender. Transgender individuals may be wary of applying for the ID using their affirmed sex because of concerns that they will be accused of presenting false information. This is especially true if the individual has been unable to correct the sex designation on their other documents. City employees also may cite this provision to question an individual whose appearance or ID does not appear to match the sex designation being requested.

Section 3-139 should be clarified to note that it does not apply to information regarding sex and that no proof of sex is to be requested as part of the application.

Provisions for Correction and Updating

Int. No. 253 should be clarified to ensure that there is a simple process available for individuals who need to change the name, gender, or other information on the card.

Medical Consensus on Accurate Identity Documents for Transgender Individuals

The medical consensus recognizes that legal documents should reflect a transgender person's affirmed sex. The American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, World Professional Association for Transgender Health, and National Association of Social Workers all support changing identity documents, including birth certificates, without requiring surgery.¹⁰

Many states have modernized their birth certificate policies in recognition of the fact that an individual's sex depends on more than just surgical status. The following jurisdictions require a doctor's certification rather than proof of surgery to update the sex on a birth certificate: California, Iowa, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, District of Columbia¹¹ and the federal government (for U.S. citizens born abroad).¹²

⁹ http://www.tgeu.org/Argentina_Gender_Identity_Law

¹⁰ AMA, H-65.967 Conforming Birth Certificate Policies to Current Medical Standards for Transgender Patients, <<https://ssl3.ama-assn.org/apps/ecommm/PolicyFinderForm.pl?site=www.ama-assn.org&uri=/resources/html/PolicyFinder/policyfiles/HnE/H-65.967.HTM>>; WPATH, Identity Recognition Statement, <[http://www.wpath.org/uploaded_files/140/files/Identity Recognition Statement 6-6-10 on letterhead.pdf](http://www.wpath.org/uploaded_files/140/files/Identity%20Recognition%20Statement%206-6-10%20on%20letterhead.pdf)>; APA, Transgender, Gender Identity, & Gender Expression Non-Discrimination, <<http://www.apa.org/about/policy/transgender.aspx>>; NASW, Transgender and Gender Identity Issues, in *Social Work Speaks: National Association of Social Workers Policy Statements 2009-2012*, p. 347 (8th ed. 2009).

¹¹ Cal. Health & Safety Code § 103425; Iowa Code Ann. § 144.23(3); OR. REV. STAT. § 33.460; 18 Vt. Stat. § 5112(b); Washington Dept. of Health Proc. CHS-B5 (2008); D.C. Code § 7-210.01.

¹² 7 U.S. Department of State Foreign Affairs Manual 1300 Appendix M at 8, available at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/143160.pdf>.

THE CENTER

Testimony of Glenda Testone, Executive Director of The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center on Wednesday, 4/30/14 in support of Int. No. 253, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to the creation of a New York City identity card program.

Introduction

Good morning, my name is Glenda Testone and I am the Executive Director of The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center. The Center respectfully submits the following testimony regarding and in support of Int. No. 253, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to the creation of a New York City identity card program. I would like to thank the Committee for giving The Center the opportunity to provide testimony today.

The Center is the heart and home of NYC's LGBT community, providing programs for health, wellness and community connection. Founded in 1983, we emerged out of the epicenter of the HIV and AIDS crisis in NYC. Members of the community mobilized in the building that houses The Center today. Thirty years later, The Center has evolved alongside an ever-changing community and seeks to help LGBT individuals be healthier and more productive, help LGBT youth make a successful transition to self-sufficient adulthood and the workplace, and strengthen and help stabilize LGBT families. The Center is a central and accessible location, reachable within 60-minutes travel via all major subway lines to over 75% of all LGBT New Yorkers and draws a broad NYC 5-borough audience of participants – over 430,000 people 13 and older. Each week, 6,000 unique individuals visit The Center, and over 400 different educational, cultural, professional and recreational groups, including dozens of addiction recovery groups, meet at The Center. The Center also provides an array of model educational and social service programs. These services and programs engage over 7,000 people in over 36,000 individual, group and community services visits annually.

Current situation

What we see firsthand every day is the power that the proposed legislation has to impact numerous New Yorkers, including many members of the LGBT community – in particular LGBT youth, immigrants and transgender people.

Transgender and gender non-conforming New Yorkers face unrelenting discrimination and harassment and are placed at the highest risk. They tell us of the many additional burdens they face when trying to obtain the most basic but vital identification – identification that is necessary to apply for benefits, enter public buildings and prove their identity if the police stop them. A Municipal ID card that allows transgender people to self-identify their gender is a welcome, vital and overdue change.

LGBT youth are overrepresented among the homeless population. Many of the young people share how they had to escape from abusive homes, often without any identity documents. These documents are critical in order to access needed services or safely engage with law enforcement.

LGBT immigrants also face increased barriers to employment along with increased stigmatization and violence when they don't have accurate ID or documents that record legal status. When seeking services at The Center they share how increasingly difficult it is to access resources and information that can assist them towards obtaining legal documentation.

Many LGBT youth, immigrants and transgender people also suffer from symptoms of trauma as a consequence of the stress of negotiating lives where harassment, abuse and discrimination are daily

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THE CENTER

occurrence. This places them at higher risk for HIV infection, substance abuse, domestic violence and many other concerns commonly associated with disenfranchised communities. Municipal identification cards will help ease their access to services to address these and other issues.

Asal's story

If I have time, I would like to take this opportunity to share the story of Asal – a 23-year-old woman who came to the Center seeking support a few days after she arrived from Uzbekistan with a suitcase and \$500 in her pocket. The penalty for homosexuality in Uzbekistan is imprisonment. When Asal arrived at the Center she was worried that she could have been followed, and told us that she circled the block several times before entering our building on West 13th Street in Manhattan.

When she later sat down to share her story with a counselor, Asal spoke about the brutalities that she endured at the hands of local police in her small town. She told us about her arrest at a public park after a police officer saw her kissing her girlfriend. Asal and her girlfriend endured multiple instances of sexual assault at the hands of police officers, who later handed them over for similar treatment by others in the corrections facilities. Asal was fortunate to have family who supported her and helped her escape her native country. It is easy to understand why she initially seemed so watchful in asking for our help.

Asal received services at The Center and other partner organizations for survivors of torture. She was eventually granted full asylum. One added struggle that could have alleviated her journey would be legitimate identification that would have helped ease her concerns about interactions with police in New York City, as well as helping her access services.

Recommendations and conclusion

For this opportunity to have the most impact, the process for obtaining the card should be as unencumbered as possible while still maintaining the integrity of the card. Gender should be based on the individual's self-identity rather than the subject of some other proof or of medical treatment. It is also vital that homeless New Yorkers have alternatives to document residency and their identity. We feel the City Council has addressed all of these points in the proposed legislation.

Municipal identification cards are a powerful tool to help some of these most vulnerable New Yorkers step out of the shadows to better take care of themselves and more fully access the wealth of opportunities this city has to. For many people The Center serves, particularly LGBT youth, immigrants and transgender individuals, there is an experience of "two New Yorks" – one with ID and another without. Everyone in New York should be given a chance to be able to establish their identity when engaging with law enforcement, connecting to services or accessing public spaces such as buildings, banks, libraries and schools. The New Yorkers that need municipal identification cards are our friends, neighbors and family. They live and contribute to our lives and our communities. By helping them, we are helping all New Yorkers in every neighborhood and in every community.

Thank you.

Glenda Testone
Executive Director
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

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The New York City Council

**Testimony of Lynly Egyes, Esq.
Staff Attorney
Sex Workers Project
Urban Justice Center**

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Wednesday, May 30, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

250 Broadway, 16th FL, New York, NY 10007

Good morning, Council Members Dromm, Council Member Menchaca and all other council members present here.

The Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center very much appreciates the opportunity to offer comment on this proposed legislation. My name is Lynly Egyes and I am an attorney at the Sex Workers Project where I primarily represent victims of trafficking. I'm here today to illustrate to you why this proposed legislation is so important in the fight against human trafficking and more importantly why this legislation will help protect victims of trafficking.

The best way to explain how important this legislation is to victims of trafficking is to introduce you to two of my clients. Rebecca was brought into the United States by a very powerful family. She was told she would be working as a nanny but upon arrival plans everything changed and life became a nightmare. Her passport was taken away and locked in a safe. Rebecca was forced to work up to 20 hours a day without any pay. Her traffickers deprived her of food and sleep, and subjected her to sexual and physical abuse. After months of this torture, Rebecca gathered her courage and escaped but she had to leave behind her passport. Rebecca was scared to report her traffickers to law enforcement because her traffickers constantly told her that no one would believe her. With her birth certificate in hand, she found her way to our office. When my colleague suggested getting a new passport, Rebecca made it clear that if she went to her

consulate, her traffickers would find her. She told me regularly that living without ID made her fearful of even walking on the streets.

My client Valarie met her trafficker here in the United States. Valarie's trafficker confiscated her identity documents immediately. For five years, she was forced through physical violence and threats to work in prostitution. Once Valarie found the courage and strength to escape, she had to leave her documents and all of her belongings behind. It is not always easy or even possible to acquire a passport from a foreign country while here in the United States, but victims of trafficking are often undocumented and unable to return home due to concerns of safety. Years later, Valarie eventually was able to get a new passport with the help of her family, but the passport does not reflect her gender or her name accurately because she is a transgender woman. Valarie has shared with me how scared she is to show her passport to the police and other agencies for fear of outing herself as a transgender woman. This fear kept her from seeking services and reporting her trafficker for many years.

I've heard that some people are concerned about self attestation of gender on municipal IDs and to be honest I'm not exactly sure why. Currently, a person's gender on their identification does not determine where a person is placed in DOC's custody. However, accurate gender identification will allow people to feel safe seeking employment, enrolling in school, reporting crimes to law enforcement and accessing social services. From my conversations with law enforcement, I know how hard agents work to ensure that my clients feel safe and secure in their meetings with them. To be able to walk into the building and provide security with accurate identification is one step in the right direction.

Traffickers routinely confiscate identification from their victims as part of their scheme of power and control. Traffickers commonly tell victims that they are no one, and destroying or confiscating their identification sends this message in a powerful way. Trying to replace or acquire new identity documents for my clients, both those born abroad and those born here in the United States, is a constant struggle. That is why I am very excited about the possibility of municipal IDs. I can't describe to you the joy in my clients' faces when they finally receive identification. I'm regularly told that having a form of ID makes them feel powerful and allows them to ask for help from the police. And for victims who have had their documents destroyed, identification can help take back the power from traffickers. As one of my clients told me, after a two year wait for her identification, "I am someone now, and he can't take that away from me."

SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT

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City Council Hearing Re: Int. No. 253

Re: Creation of a Municipal ID

Wednesday April 30, 2014

**Comments of the Sylvia Rivera Law Law Project and
The Peter Cicchino Youth Project of The Urban Justice Center**

My name is Elana Redfield and I am a Staff Attorney at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. We provide legal services to low-income people and people of color who are transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming. My comments today are also on behalf of the Peter Cicchino Youth Project, which provides direct legal services to homeless and street-involved youth under the age of 24.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to address the Council on the issue of the Municipal ID. This creation of such an ID would have a large impact in the communities our organizations work with.

Many transgender people have no identification at all. This is due to many factors, including poverty, family rejection, homelessness, and immigration issues. The municipal ID will create opportunities for clients to obtain ID who were never able to do so before.

However, it is critical that the Council and the Mayor's office make these ID cards gender-affirming. This is an essential component of reducing discrimination against transgender communities. In one study, 40% of respondents said that they experienced harassment because their ID did not match their gender presentation. This is especially true in low income communities and communities of color. Many transgender people will not even carry an ID card because the gender marker does not match.

In order to make the ID accessible to the most vulnerable people, I must emphasize the critical importance of gender self-determination. No medical evidence or other documentation should be required for selecting a gender. Why is this so important?

- First, every individual is the best expert on their own internal sense of their gender. Better than a doctor or therapist or family member. Self-designation acknowledges each person for who they truly are.
- Second, many transgender people do not have access to medical evidence or treatments, so providing a letter can be hard or impossible. Even finding a doctor or affording medical care can be a challenge for a low-income transgender person. This leaves many transgender people without the option of obtaining IDs that affirm their gender.
- Third, many people feel safer without having Male or Female on their card. Having the option to leave gender field blank will allow these people to feel more comfortable using the card.

By obtaining an ID that affirms their gender accurately, transgender people can reduce and in some cases eliminate shame, humiliation, and harassment. They will have a card they can proudly carry and utilize. They will be able to provide affirming ID when searching for jobs and housing. They will be more inclined to interact with government agencies and law enforcement. Furthermore, for transgender immigrants applying for status, obtaining an ID with an affirming gender marker can assist them with their immigration process. These are only some of the many ways gender-affirming ID will help our transgender communities.

For these reasons we urge the council to pass this measure, and to ensure the ability of transgender applicants to self-select their gender in their applications. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on these issues.

Client Example

I had a client who came to me wanting to seek a name change. She was homeless, did not have a good relationship with her family and did not have a birth certificate or any ID documents besides her HRA Benefits card, which in her case does not have a picture. In order to do the name change, we needed a birth certificate, and in order to get the birth certificate, she was asked for photo ID. As a result of not being able to get a photo ID, she was unable to get a birth certificate, change her name, and begin the process of getting other IDs. The municipal ID card, should she qualify, would have made this possible.

Additional Comments

Facts on transgender discrimination:

- One study found that transgender people face double the national rate of unemployment, due to job discrimination. The number is twice that for transgender people of color. Failure to present a gender-affirming ID is one issue that contributes to job discrimination.
- Approximately 50% of transgender people experience severe family rejection. Often times family support and connections are necessary in order to get documents like a birth certificate.
- Furthermore, one in three transgender New Yorkers has experienced homelessness. Looking at transgender youth, the numbers are equally dramatic. Approximately 40% of homeless youth identify as lesbian, bisexual, gay or transgender, and of those, 46% named family rejection as the cause of their homelessness. With unstable living situations, many people are unable to retain the documents they need to get a state ID.
- Transgender immigrants often flee persecution and violent family rejection in order to live in their true gender in the United States. Additionally, many

transgender people are trafficked into the United States without any proper form of identification. For these people, obtaining ID documents can be hard or impossible.

Concerns about the risks of self-designation are unwarranted.

- Gender, much like height, weight, eye color, and hair color, is an identifying feature that is used for describing or linking a person to their ID, rather than proving their identity for eligibility purposes.
- Self-attestation allows applicants to obtain a card that reflects the way they express their gender on the daily basis. This makes identification easier and reduces confusion, because the information on the card will match the way the person presents their gender.
- Several strict measures will be in place to verify the identities of applicants for the municipal ID, including requirements for proving both residency and identity.
- The NYPD patrol guide has recently been revised with changes that direct officers to use the correct names and pronouns of transgender people and to affirm their gender identity when assisting, detaining, questioning or arresting transgender people. Police are even instructed to disregard identifying information on ID's that is inconsistent with the person's gender expression. Allowing a person to obtain an ID with the appropriate gender will support the NYPD in these practices and accurately verify a person's identity based on their true, lived gender.
- Finally, to our knowledge it is extremely rare for a person to go through the trouble of obtaining a document in a different gender for the purposes of committing fraud. Should a person intend to do such a thing, the precautions and practices already in place for administration of the Municipal ID should make fraud nearly impossible.

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2013-2014**

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April 29, 2014

The New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Int. No. 253 - In relation to the Creation of
a New York City Identity Card Program**

Dear Speaker Mark-Viverito:

We are submitting this testimony on behalf of the New York Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), the nation's largest professional organization of immigration lawyers. We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this forum.

The AILA New York Chapter applauds and supports the New York City Council's introduction of proposed Local Law 0253-2014, which would make a municipal identification card, known as a "New York City Identity Card," available to all residents, regardless of immigration status. If the Council adopts such a program, New York City would join the growing number of states and major municipalities, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., which are using innovative ways to welcome and integrate immigrants and other residents into the civic, cultural and economic life of their cities.¹

¹ Ten cities have already enacted municipal ID card programs: New Haven, CT; San Francisco, CA; Oakland, CA; Richmond, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Asbury Park, NJ; Mercer County, NJ; Trenton, NJ; Princeton, NJ; and Washington, D.C.

New York City Residents Need Access to a Valid Identity Document

An increasing number of people residing in New York City are required to produce official identification in order to access social services and participate in everyday transactions that most of us take for granted, *e.g.*, opening bank accounts, signing apartment leases, filing police reports, borrowing books from a library, and entering schools to pick up their children. While residents who have driver's licenses can present them for such purposes, those without driver's licenses, including undocumented immigrants, cannot produce the proof of identity and residency that are routinely required by city agencies and other public and private institutions, *e.g.*, banks, libraries, etc.

An identification card that would be available to all individuals residing in New York City would enable vulnerable communities to more fully integrate and participate in day-to-day activities. This type of identification would especially benefit undocumented immigrants, who are estimated to number 500,000 out of a total of eight million city residents. A municipal identity card would not only benefit undocumented immigrants but also a broad range of other vulnerable New Yorkers, including those who are LGBTQ, formerly incarcerated and homeless, as well as youths and low-income seniors.

As explained in a recent report by The Center for Popular Democracy, which surveyed the experiences of municipal ID programs in several localities, lack of access to essential services leads to other problems. These include the targeting of immigrants by would-be robbers who believe that immigrants carry large sums of cash, as well as the reluctance of immigrants to report crimes or workplace exploitation.² A municipal ID that is widely used in a locality can reduce the effects of racial profiling on certain groups of individuals who are asked to present identification at higher rates than their white counterparts – especially where such requests are unwarranted.

Lack of access to essential services because of a lack of identification also poses unique challenges to undocumented youth who were brought to the United States at a young age. Many of these children and young adults now qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”), an immigration benefit that offers work authorization to applicants who can prove they meet the program's evidentiary criteria, which include their physical presence in the United States on the qualifying date and their continuous residence in this country. Unfortunately, many undocumented youth who should qualify for this benefit have a very difficult time proving that they have been continuously present in the U.S. because they have been living in the shadows due to their inability to open bank accounts, obtain library cards, or sign leases. The result is that a population that the federal government has deemed eligible for an immigration benefit is unable to obtain that benefit due to lack of necessary documentation.

In addition, should Congress pass immigration reform, it is likely that any future legislation will require similar evidence of continuous presence in the U.S. By offering a municipal ID card, New York City will give its undocumented residents an opportunity to participate in civic life without fear or restrictions, while also putting them in position to obtain the documents they will eventually need to legalize their status.

Proposed Municipal ID Program is Consistent with Federal Laws

² The Center for Popular Democracy, *Who We are: Municipal ID Cards as a Local Strategy to Promote Belonging and Shared Community Identity* 8 (Dec. 2013), at <http://populardemocracy.org/news/who-we-are-municipal-id-cards-local-strategy-promote-belonging-and-shared-community-identity>.

Like similar municipal ID programs in other states and localities, the City Council's proposed initiative is likely to survive legal scrutiny. State or local laws are preempted when they stand as an obstacle to the execution, objectives and purposes of the federal laws in the field of immigration. Thus, the municipal ID program must be reconcilable with the relevant federal statutes, including the REAL ID Act of 2005 and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA).³

The REAL ID Act bars federal agencies from accepting state-issued ID cards that do not conform to the Act's requirements. Such an ID requires valid documentary evidence that a person falls within one of the enumerated categories of lawful presence in the U.S., and it may only be valid for the duration of the person's authorized presence or for one year if the person's period of authorized stay is indefinite. However, the Act is directed towards federal agencies, and nothing in the Act precludes a state from issuing IDs that do not comply with the Act. In fact, Section 202(d)(11) of the Act *specifically allows* for states to issue licenses that are not in compliance, so long as they contain specific identifiers that will alert federal agencies that the ID cannot be used for federal ID purposes.

While PRWORA precludes unlawfully present immigrants from eligibility for certain state and local benefits unless those states affirmatively provide for such eligibility, as an initial matter, it is far from clear that municipal IDs like the New York City Identity Card fit PRWORA's definition of 'state and local public benefits,' which focuses on professional and commercial licensing and direct payments and related forms of monetary assistance. While municipal IDs may make it easier for unlawfully present immigrants to engage in everyday transactions, courts have distinguished such assistance from direct payments for the purpose of alleviating economic hardship. Moreover, the notion that PRWORA does not intend to prevent unlawfully present immigrants from engaging in daily activities is supported by the fact that PRWORA specifically contemplates state legislation that would affirmatively provide for eligibility for direct financial assistance.

Thus, to the extent that the proposed municipal ID does not represent that it may be used for federal ID purposes and does not grant a benefit to unlawfully present immigrants that is not already permitted under New York State law, it is in no way preempted by federal law.

Municipal ID Must Protect Applicants' Privacy

We commend the proposed bill for including a provision that protects the information and privacy of an applicant for a New York City Identity Card by requiring that: 1) the city not retain originals or copies of the records provided by the individual to prove identity or residency; and 2) the information collected about applicants will be treated as confidential and will not be shared with government entities or private parties, with certain exceptions.⁴ This confidentiality provision will be crucial to allaying the fears of undocumented immigrants and other vulnerable populations that

³ Critics have raised the objection that programs similar to the proposed municipal ID program serve to legitimize the presence of immigrants who are not authorized to be present in the U.S. However, no court of law has found this to be the case. See Kate M. Manuel & Michael John Garcia, *Unlawfully Present Aliens, Driver's Licenses, and Other State-Issued ID: Select Legal Issues* CONG. RESEARCH SERV. 20-21 (Mar. 28, 2014), at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43452.pdf>. Furthermore, AILA-NY commends the New York City Council for consistently recognizing the value and contributions of all New York residents – including those without legal status.

⁴ Int. No. 253, § 3-136 (Apr. 10, 2014).

their personal information, including their lack of immigration status, will be shared with federal law enforcement authorities. Such information could be used by unscrupulous individuals or Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to seek the removal of undocumented immigrants. Once the identity card has been issued by the mayor's office of operations, originals of the documents submitted in connection with the New York City Identity Card application should be returned to the applicant and copies destroyed.

Municipal ID Needs to Be Widely Accepted by All City Agencies

In order for municipal ID card holders to truly benefit from the card, all city agencies must accept it. Widespread acceptance of the card will allow cardholders to maximize their participation in civic life. At the same time, acceptance of municipal ID cards as a valid form of identification by all city agencies, including the New York Police Department, will help repair the fractured relationship between immigrant and other vulnerable communities and the police. Distrust between communities of color and the NYPD has been well documented, especially in relation to Stop and Frisk. In the immigration context, studies have shown that undocumented individuals are much less likely to report crimes due to their fear that police will ask them about their immigration status or that of people they know.⁵ Removing this fear will enhance public safety by giving immigrants confidence to report crimes and otherwise assist law enforcement.

We note that local law enforcement authorities may have legitimate concerns about the integrity of the documentation presented to establish identity and residency. However, Section 3-132 of the bill requires that the proposed identity card be designed in a manner to deter fraud. In addition, Section 3-139 provides that it will be a misdemeanor for anyone applying for the card to "knowingly present false information" or to use such a card issued to another person with the "intent to cause a third person to believe that the holder of the card is the person to whom such card was issued." AILA-NY believes that this penalty is sufficient as it is identical to the penalty for presenting false information in connection with an application for a driver's license under New York Vehicle and Traffic Law Article 392, and because additional existing criminal penalties for possessing or purchasing a fraudulent document would also apply to municipal identification cards.⁶

Municipal ID Must Be Accessible/Attractive to a Broad Range of Communities

In order for the program to succeed, the proposed New York City Identity Card needs to be accessible and attractive to all New Yorkers. Its design and functions should have wide appeal to a variety of potential users and should not be perceived as being beneficial only to certain groups, such as undocumented immigrants. For purposes of promoting access to financial services for all New York City residents, we support recommendations that the card include features that are adaptable for future use for certain banking functions and linkage to the Metrocard. We also encourage a broad public education campaign to ensure that all New Yorkers are aware of the benefits of applying for such a card.

New York City Identity Card Is Beneficial to All New Yorkers

⁵ Nik Theodore, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago, *Insecure Communities: Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in Immigration Enforcement*, May 2013, <http://www.fordfoundation.org/newsroom/in-the-headlines/774>,

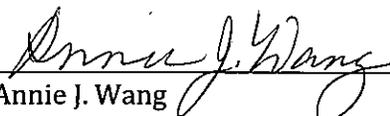
⁶ See New York Penal Law Article 170.25 (Criminal possession of a forged instrument in the second degree); New York Vehicle and Traffic Law Article 392-a. (Sale or purchase of stolen, false or fraudulent license, identification card, certificate of registration, or number plate).

AILA-NY joins immigrants and the other groups and individuals testifying today to urge the City Council to adopt Int. No.253, which would establish a resident identity card program. Doing so will make the city safer and more welcoming to all residents by making a valid and secure form of identification accessible to hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, increasing trust between community members and government agencies, including the NYPD, unifying the city's residents, and most importantly, allowing all New Yorkers to participate in all aspects of civic life without fear, restrictions or exclusion due to lack of government issued identification. We remain committed to offering our resources and expertise to the City Council as it continues its vital work to more fully integrate immigrants and other communities into the vibrant life of this city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Brettschneider *signed by Ann*
AILA NY Chapter Chair


Annie J. Wang
Co-Chair, CIR Committee

**NEW YORK
CITY BAR**

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**TESTIMONY OF STEVEN SACCO AND MARK NOFERI
MEMBERS, IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY COMMITTEE OF THE
NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION**

**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION HEARING
"Int. No. 253 - In relation to the creation of a New York City identity card program."
April 30, 2014**

We are Steven Sacco and Mark Noferi, members of the Immigration and Nationality Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association. We submit this testimony on behalf of the Committee today in support of proposed Local Law 0253-2014.¹

The New York City Bar Association applauds the City Council for holding this hearing to examine the need for a municipal ID for New York City residents. We believe a municipal ID card will make New York a safer, more inclusive, and more economically vibrant community, for all New Yorkers (not just immigrants), and it will do so in a legally sound way. We also raise questions below concerning implementation and confidentiality.

Currently, about half a million of our fellow New Yorkers are undocumented non-U.S. citizens,² and thus cannot get drivers' licenses or a photo ID under state law.³ By passing this law, New York City would join municipalities nationwide in instituting ID cards for residents regardless of immigration status—*i.e.* New Haven, CT, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Richmond, and Oakland, CA, and Trenton, Asbury Park, and Monmouth County, NJ.⁴

* * *

¹ See <http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1709715&GUID=96D7B94F-F24B-4308-8F29-6C559BF444EB&Options=ID|Text|&Search=0253>.

² The City of New York, *The Newest New Yorkers* 186 (Dec. 2013), at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/census/nny.shtml>.

³ N.Y. VEH. & TRAF. LAW § 501.

⁴ See Center for Popular Democracy, *Who We Are: Municipal ID cards as a local strategy to promote belonging and shared community identity* (Dec. 2013), at <http://populardemocracy.org/sites/default/files/municipal%20id%20report.pdf>. See also Els de Graauw, *Municipal ID Cards for Undocumented Immigrants: Local Bureaucratic Membership in a Federal System*, POLITICS & SOC'Y (forthcoming Sept. 2014) (manuscript at 26) (on file with author); Paul F. Lagunes, Brian M. Levin & Ruth K. Dittmann, *The (Identification) Cards You Are Dealt: Biased Treatment of Anglos and Latinos Using Municipal-Issued versus Unofficial ID Cards*, POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY (2013).

First, *the Council should enact a municipal ID program because it will help make our city safer, foster civic participation, and benefit the City economically.*

A municipal ID will increase public safety by encouraging more crime reporting and cooperation with police investigations. Not having any form of photo identification is generally a red flag to law enforcement that an individual may be undocumented. Undocumented New Yorkers know this, and it understandably increases their reluctance to contact the police, including to report a crime.⁵ Conversely, a municipal ID should allow undocumented New Yorkers to interact with police without fear of deportation. Along these lines, immigrants stopped by police during investigations or for minor violations “should be issued a summons, not detained for lacking ID.”⁶

To allay immigrants’ fears, though, the legislation must take steps to prevent undocumented New Yorkers from risk of federal immigration prosecution simply by applying for the card.⁷ We support Section 3-136 as a strong step in this direction. Section 3-136 provides that (1) the City “shall not retain originals or copies of records” submitted to prove identity, and (2) “to the maximum extent allowed by applicable federal or state law,” ID application information shall be “treated as confidential” and not disclosed to government entities absent the applicant’s written permission, or an order “by a court of competent jurisdiction.” However, these provisions raise further questions, such as the extent to which immigration courts could subpoena ID card records in deportation proceedings, records’ availability under Freedom of Information laws,⁸ any City obligations to disclose names if not records,⁹ the length of time the City will keep records, and which City agency will oversee recordkeeping (as discussed later). We would support an amendment directing the City to develop regulations to clarify these issues, as other parts of this legislation provide.¹⁰

Additionally, to allay any Police Department concerns of fraud, we also support Section 3-135’s strong proof of identity and residency requirements. The City could also look to other cities for innovative methods of preventing fraud while preserving privacy. San Francisco, for example, invested in fraud prevention technology such as a foreign identification authentication

⁵ Center for Popular Democracy, *Who We Are*, at 8.

⁶ N.Y. Times, *Caution Ahead for Municipal IDs* (Apr. 27, 2014), at <http://nyti.ms/1fJkMtx>.

⁷ See N.Y. Times, *Caution Ahead for Municipal IDs* (“originals should be returned to cardholders and copies destroyed.”)

⁸ In New Haven, local anti-immigrant activists tried to obtain names of ID card applicants through state Freedom of Information requests. The state rejected the requests. Cristina Costantini, *Municipal ID Cards Given To Undocumented Immigrants In Cities Across The U.S. With Varied Success*, Huffington Post (Oct. 24, 2011), at <http://huff.to/1u08eXX>

⁹ By comparison, San Francisco’s legislation specifically provides that the city will keep confidential “*the name* and other identifying information” to the maximum extent provided by law. San Francisco Administrative Code § 95.2(c)(3), available at Center for Popular Democracy, *Who We Are*, at 49.

¹⁰ See § 3-133 (directing Mayor’s office of operations to “promulgate all rules necessary”), § 3-134(b) (directing Mayor’s office to adopt rules for fee waivers), § 3-135(a)(i), (ii) (directing Mayor’s office to adopt rules for proof of identity and residency).

module, biometric identification, and a laser engraving machine to design a card intended to be more secure than California's state drivers' license.¹¹

Moreover, the municipal ID program will encourage civil participation and foster a sense of belonging for all New Yorkers, including undocumented immigrants. Municipal ID enables its holders to receive services from city agencies, borrow library books, access medical clinics and financial services, pick up packages, and cash checks.¹² To encourage participation, we support Section 3-137, which provides that “[a]ll city agencies shall accept such card as proof of identity and residency for access to city services,” and that the city shall “seek to expand the benefits associated with” the ID, including promoting the card to “banks and other public and private institutions.” Facilitating the opening of bank accounts by undocumented New Yorkers reduces their need to keep large sums of cash on person or in homes, and in turn reduces the risk they are targeted for robbery and other crimes.¹³

This inclusion creates economic benefits for the city, as the undocumented and other vulnerable populations are able to engage in everyday transactions, reducing their own economic hardships.¹⁴ (Richmond, California cited economic benefits in passing its municipal ID law.)¹⁵ Over the long-term, a recent study found that communities which greet immigrants with benevolence and inclusion, rather than governmental hostility, set immigrants and their children on a stronger long-term course in life. Specifically, meaningful social interaction and educational opportunities for children of immigrants, rather than exclusionary measures, help to reduce fear, social stigmatization, and gang activity.¹⁶

Second, *Municipal ID's properly benefit City populations other than undocumented immigrants.* The proposed New York City photo ID is not just good for undocumented city residents, but for many other New Yorkers as well:¹⁷

- Transgender New Yorkers, for example, have difficulty obtaining identification that matches their gender. Thus, we support Section 3-132(a), which allows applicants to self-designate their gender if they choose.¹⁸

¹¹ Henry Grabar, *L.A. Moves Forward With Its Own Immigration Reform*, Atlantic Cities (Nov. 13, 2012), at <http://bit.ly/1u09xWE>; City of Oakland, *Report and Recommendations to Implement the Municipal Identification Program* (Oct. 13, 2009), at <http://bit.ly/1u0aRsQ>; Business Wire, *San Francisco Issues Municipal ID Cards With Capture Technologies' Solution* (Jan. 15, 2009), at <http://bit.ly/1u0a6Qw>.

¹² See Karthick Ramakrishnan & Pratheepan Gulasekaram, *Understanding Immigration Federalism in the United States*, CTR. FOR AM. PROGRESS 21 (Mar. 2014), at <http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/StateImmigration-reportv2.pdf>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Center for Popular Democracy, *Who We Are*, at 10.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 44.

¹⁶ Sarah Hendricks, *Living in a Car Culture Without a License*, Immigration Policy Center 9 (Apr. 2014), at http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/living_in_car_culture_without_a_license_3.pdf.

¹⁷ Center for Popular Democracy, *Who We Are*, at 9.

¹⁸ This would “provide access to basic and much-needed services and accommodations that many take for granted,” and “clear away many of the hurdles transgender New Yorkers face when it comes to legal documents that reflect

- Homeless New Yorkers have trouble applying for a state-issued ID because of the difficulty to supply an address.¹⁹ Thus, we support Section 3-135(ii), which directs the Mayor to establish regulations so that homeless can provide alternative proof of residency.
- Formerly incarcerated New Yorkers trying to re-enter society with little documentation will benefit.²⁰
- Finally, many New Yorkers, particularly the elderly and children under 16, do not drive, but can benefit from having a municipal ID.

Each of these populations would benefit from being able to obtain a city-issued photo ID. Moreover, it is important that the ID card be attractive to all New Yorkers, not just undocumented immigrants, to avoid any “scarlet letter” effect associated with the ID.²¹

We thus encourage City outreach to facilitate widespread implementation of the card. Additionally, like San Francisco, the Council could amend the legislation to direct New York City’s Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) to coordinate with other City agencies to promote the card and develop multiple uses for it.²²

Third, we raise questions regarding implementation of the legislation. Currently, the legislation directs that the Mayor’s “office of operations” administer the program and promulgate all rules necessary to do so.²³ Traditionally, the Mayor’s office of operations does not administer large-scale programs such as this, to our understanding. Large numbers of applicants for the program are expected, based on smaller cities’ experiences. New Haven has issued about 15,000 cards, and San Francisco has issued about 10,000.²⁴

We encourage the Council to consider whether assigning responsibility to a specific City agency would help smooth the program’s implementation, and help clarify issues such as confidentiality. The Council could direct coordination with MOIA, if it chose. For example,

their true identities.” Nathan Schaefer, Empire State Pride Agenda (Apr. 11, 2014), at <http://council.nyc.gov/html/pr/041114mis.shtml>.

¹⁹ *Id.* (Mary Brosnahan, Coalition for the Homeless).

²⁰ *Id.* (Nancy Wackstein, Executive Director, United Neighborhood Houses).

²¹ Center for Popular Democracy, *Who We Are*, at 10.

²² San Francisco Administrative Code § 95.2(d) (“The Immigrant Rights Administrator shall be responsible for coordinating with the Agency and other City Departments the promotion of the cards and the development of multiple uses for the cards.”), available at Center for Popular Democracy, *Who We Are*, at 48-49.

²³ Section 3-133.

²⁴ Elizabeth Hagen, *NYC can expect rush on new municipal ID cards*, N.Y. Post (Feb. 12, 2014), at <http://bit.ly/1u0dWsW>.

San Francisco's legislation directs administration by their County Clerk, in consultation with their Immigrant Rights Administrator, under their City Administrator's supervision.²⁵

Lastly, *the Municipal ID program is lawful and does not contravene federal laws*. A state or municipality is within its rights to issue a unique identifier to its population, including undocumented non-citizens. Although the federal government is pre-eminent in setting immigration policy, state and local governments still possess authority to regulate the lives of residents within their borders.²⁶

For this reason, a nonpartisan Congressional Research Service report recently concluded that municipal IDs are "unlikely to be barred by federal law."²⁷ No court has held that federal law preempts state or local governments from issuing IDs to undocumented populations within their borders. Indeed, the only court to rule on municipal IDs, a California state court, concluded that San Francisco's municipal ID was not preempted by federal law.²⁸

Specifically, New York City's municipal ID is unlikely preempted as a "regulation of immigration." The ID, available to *any* current resident of New York City (Sections 3-132(b), 134(a)), only regulates local matters, not national matters such as entry or legal residency in the United States.²⁹ Moreover, New York City's ID is unlikely preempted by the federal REAL ID Act.³⁰ The federal REAL ID Act does require states to require proof of legal immigration status if a state seeks federal agencies to accept its ID for federal purposes.³¹ But, New York City does not seek its ID to be used for any federal purpose (nor does the City intend the ID to provide proof of lawful immigration status).³² Indeed, federal law explicitly envisions that localities will use non-conforming IDs at the local level.³³

²⁵ San Francisco Administrative Code § 95.2(a)(3), (d), available at Center for Popular Democracy, *Who We Are*, at 48-49. Oakland's legislation similarly directs the City Clerk to administer the program, or "such other City Department or Agency that the City Administrator may designate." Oakland Municipal Code Chs. 2.34.020, .050, at *Who We Are*, 42-43.

²⁶ Ramakrishnan & Gulasekaram, *Understanding Immigration Federalism*, at 1.

²⁷ Kate M. Manuel & Michal John Garcia, *Unlawfully Present Aliens, Driver's Licenses, and Other State-Issued ID: Select Legal Issues*, CONG. RESEARCH SERV. 20-21 (Mar. 28, 2014), at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43452.pdf>.

²⁸ *Langfeld v. City of San Francisco*, Case No. 508-341, Order Sustaining Respondents' and Intervenors Demurrer (Cal. Sup. Ct. May 13, 2008).

²⁹ Manuel & Garcia, at 13, 16, citing *United States v. Rivera*, 516 F.3d 500, 503 (6th Cir. 2008) (certificates for driving are "not related to naturalization, citizenship, or legal status"). Manuel & Garcia argue that legislation granting drivers' licenses or IDs to all residents (such as New York's), rather than specifically barring drivers' licenses to unauthorized immigrants, is more likely to survive preemption challenges. *Id.* at 16, citing *LULAC v. Bredesen*, 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 26507, *21 (M.D. Tenn., Sept. 28, 2004).

³⁰ P.L. 109-13, Div. B, §202, 119 Stat. 312-315 (May 11, 2005) (codified, as amended, at 49 U.S.C. §30301 note).

³¹ P.L. 109-13, Div. B, at §202(b)(2)(B).

³² Manuel & Garcia, at 16-17, 20-21.

³³ *Id.* at 17; P.L. 109-13, Div. B, §202(d)(11).

Lastly, New York City's ID is unlikely preempted under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996.³⁴ PRWORA does bar state and local governments from providing "state and local public benefits" to unlawfully present noncitizens unless the state enacts legislation that "affirmatively provides" for their eligibility.³⁵ However, ID cards are not "public benefits" (such as Medicaid).³⁶ Additionally, New York City's ID card does not grant new federal or state public benefits to immigrants. Under PRWORA, New York City does not possess the authority to do so.³⁷

* * *

In sum, City Bar applauds and encourages the expeditious passage of Int. No. 253 by the City Council. The ID card program will make New York a safer, more inclusive, and more economically vibrant community for all New Yorkers.

³⁴ 8 U.S.C. §1621.

³⁵ 8 U.S.C. §1621(d).

³⁶ Manuel & Garcia, at 17-18. PRWORA defines public benefits as "any grant, contract, loan, professional license, or commercial license provided by an agency of a State or local government or by appropriated funds of a State or local government," or "any retirement, welfare, health, disability, public or assisted housing, postsecondary education, food assistance, unemployment benefit, or any other similar benefit for which payments or assistance are provided to an individual, household, or family eligibility unit by an agency of a State or local government or by appropriated funds of a State or local government." 8 U.S.C. §1621(c)(1)(A), (B).

³⁷ Manuel & Garcia, at 21.

**Testimony Submitted to the New York City Council
Committee on Immigration**

Re: Int. No. 253 – In relation to the creation of a New York City identity card program.



Wednesday, April 30, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

Good morning. My name is Laurie Izutsu and I am a senior staff attorney with South Brooklyn Legal Services. My office is a part of Legal Services NYC, the country's largest provider of civil legal services for low income individuals and families. We have offices in every borough and each office provides assistance with immigration, as well as other civil legal services such as housing, foreclosure prevention, family law, and government benefits. We welcome this opportunity to present testimony regarding the creation of a New York City identity card program.

Legal Services NYC fully supports the implementation of a New York City identity card program. In a city of more than three million immigrants, all too often it is our most vulnerable fellow New Yorkers whose livelihoods are compromised by lack of proper identification. Without this basic necessity, immigrants face barriers in the most significant areas of life. First, these barriers inhibit the ability of immigrants and their families to establish economic security. Lack of proper identification makes it difficult to open a bank account or to cash a check, impeding the ability to save money and leaving these populations open to victimization by predatory schemes and exploitative check cashing centers.

Moreover, lack of proper identification substantially impacts victims and survivors of domestic violence. Without access to funds or a place to live, these individuals have fewer opportunities to escape dangerous living situations and to engage with City agencies. The creation of a municipal identity card program enhances the capacity for undocumented DV victims to establish independence from their abusers by improved access to financial services and the ability to sign a lease. Additionally, the program would ease the ability of those without state-issued identification to interact with the police and the criminal justice system, an important measure where often survivors of domestic violence are re-traumatized by the very agencies from which they seek help.

Indeed, a New York City identity card program would enhance community safety as a whole by making it easier for undocumented persons to file police reports and otherwise interact with law enforcement. In the same vein, providing municipal ID cards to immigrants would conceivably reduce unnecessary detention by law enforcement resulting from the inability of an individual to establish his or her identity, thereby potentially mitigating the effects of racial profiling.

Further, a municipal ID card program would benefit certain members of the LGBT community. Transgender individuals frequently encounter obstacles in completing a name change due to lack of medical documentation or are not at liberty to change their state identification due to cost and time constraints. LGBT youth are likewise often unable to access identity documents and consequently experience roadblocks when attempting to access much needed services.

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Raun J. Rasmussen, Executive Director
Joseph Steven Genova, Board Chair

The categories of vulnerable groups who would benefit from a municipal ID card program also include but are not limited to: the elderly; the mentally ill; the homeless; and the formerly incarcerated. Overlap between these groups is common, increasing the likelihood of entering public buildings, interacting with public authorities or otherwise facing situations where proper identification is required.

The following are two examples of difficulties faced by our clients who lacked acceptable forms of identification documents:

- Ms. R is a young mother and a survivor of extensive domestic violence who has been living in New York City since she was eleven years old. Her husband was arrested after he punched her in the face with a closed fist when she was six months pregnant, bloodying her nose and causing bruising and swelling. The husband no longer resides in the home. Because her husband controlled the finances, Ms. R fell behind on her rent once she and her husband separated and the landlord filed an eviction case soon thereafter. Ms. R eventually sought assistance from Bronx Legal Services with a VAWA self-petition. In order to apply for this immigration remedy, she was required to obtain a certificate of good conduct from the NYPD. However, when Ms. R applied for the certificate, she was denied because her only form of ID – her Venezuelan passport – had expired and she could not afford to renew it. Ms. R succeeded in obtaining a certificate of good conduct *only after* she returned again to NYPD with her Legal Services attorney, who advocated on her behalf. The inability of Ms. R to timely obtain the certificate due to lack of proper identification delayed the filing of her immigration petition. Ms. N was fortunate to have a legal representative to advocate on her behalf. However, other immigrants might never obtain immigration status due to their lack of identification.
- Ms. N is a single mother and a survivor of severe domestic violence. Ms. N sought help from Brooklyn Legal Services in a custody case against her daughter's father who had drugged and sexually assaulted the client. During the course of the custody proceedings, Ms. N attempted to enroll her daughter in school but encountered difficulties with the school's verification of residency requirement due to a lack of required documentation. Ms. N's Legal Services attorney advocated on Ms. N's behalf, reaching out to the NYC Board of Education Enrollment Office and preparing a letter, disclosing the difficulties with the child's abusive father and the circumstances of domestic violence which had led to the mother's lack of sufficient documentation. Based on the attorney's advocacy, the child was enrolled in school nine days after the initial attempt at enrollment was made. Again, it was fortunate that our client was able to enroll her daughter in school due to our attorney's advocacy efforts; but many others continue to struggle with similar issues on their own.

In closing, it is clear that the need for municipal ID cards is great. The issuance of such cards would reflect the City's respect for the myriad immigrants who have otherwise been marginalized by state and federal identification systems. Furthermore, it would promote a sense of unity amongst community members. Accordingly, we embrace the creation of a New York City identity card program.

I thank the Committee for scheduling this hearing and for affording our organization the opportunity to present this testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie Izutsu".

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ID NYC - Campaign for Municipal ID's in NY

Request to remove “§3-253. Penalties” from Proposed New York City Identity Card Legislation

The ID NYC Campaign is concerned about §3-253. Penalties in the proposed legislation that refers to a misdemeanor penalty specific to fraud relating to the acquisition or use of the municipal ID. We respectfully request that §3-253. Penalties be removed in its entirety.

Current language:

§3-253. Penalties

It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to knowingly present false information in the course of applying for such card, or to use such a card issued to another person with the intent to cause a third person to believe that the holder of the card is the person to whom such card was issued.

Identity fraud and misuse are addressed by current misdemeanor offenses in New York Penal Law related to identity theft, false personation, forgery, and offering a false instrument (*See Relevant New York Penal Law Misdemeanor Offenses below*). Specifically, the conduct of knowingly presenting false information in the course of applying for the municipal ID is covered by N.Y. Penal § 175.30, and the conduct of using a card issued to another person for fraudulent purposes is covered by N.Y. Penal § 190.78. Thus, it is not necessary to create a new offense specific to the municipal ID.

April 24, 2014

Relevant New York Penal Law Misdemeanor Offenses:

§ 170.20 Criminal possession of a forged instrument in the third degree. A person is guilty of criminal possession of a forged instrument in the third degree when, with knowledge that it is forged and with intent to defraud, deceive or injure another, he utters or possesses a forged instrument.

Criminal possession of a forged instrument in the third degree is a class A misdemeanor.

§ 175.30 Offering a false instrument for filing in the second degree. A person is guilty of offering a false instrument for filing in the second degree when, knowing that a written instrument contains a false statement or false information, he offers or presents it to a public office or public servant with the knowledge or belief that it will be filed with, registered or recorded in or otherwise become a part of the records of such public office or public servant.

Offering a false instrument for filing in the second-degree is a class A misdemeanor.

§ 190.23 False personation.

A person is guilty of false personation when after being informed of the consequences of such act, he or she knowingly misrepresents his or her actual name, date of birth or address to a police officer or peace officer with intent to prevent such police officer or peace officer from ascertaining such information.

False personation is a class B misdemeanor.

§ 190.78 Identity theft in the third degree.

A person is guilty of identity theft in the third degree when he or she knowingly and with intent to defraud assumes the identity of another person by presenting himself or herself as that other person, or by acting as that other person or by using personal identifying information of that other person, and thereby:

1. obtains goods, money, property or services or uses credit in the name of such other person or causes financial loss to such person or to another person or persons; or
2. commits a class A misdemeanor or higher level crime. Identity theft in the third degree is a class A misdemeanor.

FOR THE RECORD

**NEW YORK STATE INTERFAITH NETWORK
FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Contact: Diane Steinman, Director
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TESTIMONY OF DIANE STEINMAN, DIRECTOR

**New York City Council Hearing
Regarding Int. No. 253 – In relation to the creation
of a New York City identity card program**

As Director of the NYS Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform, I am pleased to testify in support of Int. No 253 that would create a New York City identity card.

The Interfaith Network is a network of religiously, racially and ethnically diverse faith leaders and organizations united by their faith-rooted belief in the inherent dignity of all human beings, the Golden Rule that we must treat others only as we ourselves would wish to be treated, and our obligation to welcome and honor the stranger – the immigrant. These beliefs lead us to advocate just and humane comprehensive immigration reform that ends the deportations that are shattering immigrant lives and families and that puts undocumented immigrants onto a path to citizenship; as well as to advocate passage of state and municipal laws that treat all immigrants, regardless of status, with fairness, justice and compassion.

Many of us are proud New York City residents – proud to live in a city with a tradition of welcoming immigrants; a city whose enduring symbol is the Statue of Liberty; a city where Ellis Island still reminds millions of Americans of their immigrant roots.

We are particularly proud of New York City policies that have enabled immigrants to have access to education, hospital care and police protection without regard to their immigration status.

Clearly, the benefits of our civic values and policies have flowed both ways. Immigrants, documented and undocumented alike, have enhanced the cultural vitality of our city and fueled our city's economy with their talents and labor, enabling all New Yorkers to thrive.

Recognizing the needs and contributions of undocumented immigrants, we agree with Mayor De Blasio, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Education Committee Chair Daniel Dromm, Immigration Committee Chair Carlos Menchaca and the many sponsors of the bill that the time has come to take a further step on behalf of undocumented immigrants condemned by federal inaction to life in the shadows, and create a New York City ID card that can be used for such purposes as opening a bank account, using the public library, cashing checks, signing an apartment lease, picking up a child at school, seeing a hospital doctor, entering a public building – thus enabling them to lead the ordinary lives most of us take for granted.

Moreover, the Network agrees with bill proponents that success of the new ID depends on making it readily available and marketing it to a broad spectrum of New Yorkers, including those who don't have a driver's license, young people, the elderly and the homeless, enabling those living on the margins to enter the mainstream of city life.

(over)

Hence, we laud the bill's provisions that allow proof of identity and residency to be varied without sacrificing reliability; that protect applicants' confidentiality so they can feel safe in applying; and that make the ID card affordable and readily attainable. We particularly applaud the flexibility called for in the bill to consider kinds of proof of identity and residency not currently enumerated in the bill, and suggest that criteria for such additional categories be specified, thus providing guidance for the Mayor's Office of Operations and for applicants, as well as transparency for the general public.

In short, the Interfaith Network is pleased to join its many proponents in affirming the purpose and supporting much of the detail of this bill. I want to close by emphasizing one additional benefit: we are at a watershed moment in American life, when elected officials in Washington and around the country, often driven by political self-interest and negative attitudes toward immigrants, the poor and the marginalized, are passing laws that do them harm and preventing passage of laws essential to their well-being.

In passing the NYC ID law, New York City will, in effect, be repudiating these toxic attitudes and harmful actions, standing instead for policies and priorities that meet the moral obligation to treat all who live among us with dignity, justice and compassion – thus presenting an alternative model for federal, state and local officials to emulate in the critical days and months ahead.

Testimony to the New York City Council

Regarding Municipal Identification

**Bishop Orlando Findlayter, Chairman
Churches United to Save and Heal (CUSH)**

My name is Orlando Findlayter, I am the Chairman of churches United to Save and Heal, a Clergy organization here in the City of New York comprised primarily of Caribbean American and African churches.

We are proud supporters of the rights of all citizens, including those who are undocumented. We applaud Councilmember Carlos Menchaca for introducing the Municipal ID Bill and we urge members of this body to support the bill, vote for it and let's make municipal ID a reality in New York City.

Too many hard working New Yorkers can't open a bank account, can't enter city buildings, have difficulty registering their children in school and are fearful of being stopped and can't produce a valid government issued Identification.

Municipal ID is a step in the right direction for the city. It will help prevent fraud, it will restore dignity to hundreds of thousands of our neighbors who have been marginalized by the nations broken immigration system.

We are representing the Faith-community, who is overwhelmingly supportive of the bill. It is our belief that this is an issue of morality. Every citizen deserves respect and municipal ID will be a vehicle that will bring respect to the undocumented who are part of this great city and help to keep this city going forward.

Thank you and we look forward to your affirmative vote.

MANHATTAN TOGETHER

An Affiliate of the Metro Industrial Areas Foundation

125 East 105th Street ~ New York, New York 10029

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I'm the Rev. Getulio Cruz, Pastor of Monte Sion Christian Church on the Lower East Side. I'm also a Leader in Manhattan Together and Metro IAF. We are a network of over 100 member congregations and other organizations in New York City. Our organizations represent tens of thousands of families of different racial, religious and socio economic backgrounds.

My fellow clergy in Metro IAF, and in the other churches in my council, the Assembly of Christian Churches, have heard too many stories of people's lives being disrupted by the lack of recognized ID. Men have been detained by the police, women have not been able to get in to the hospital for prenatal care, amongst many other serious problems.

This is why some Metro IAF member organizations started to produce their own IDs, We have worked with the police and other agencies in our communities to ensure they recognize these local IDs. Thousands of people's lives have improved as a result.

We strongly support the City producing its own ID that all New Yorkers can get. We also know these IDs must be and distributed in the right way. Standards must be strong enough to prevent fraud, but can't keep honest applicants from getting an ID. Law abiding New Yorkers must know that getting an ID will not place them in danger because of their immigration status or for any other reason.

Metro IAF is ready to work with the Mayor, Council, the Police and rest of the City to ensure these IDs are designed in a professional manner that will be useful to a wide variety of New Yorkers. We want to encourage thousands of our members to sign up for IDs. If it can be done securely, we would love to have city officials come to our congregations and perhaps public libraries, to sign people up there.

By working together, we can ensure these IDs make life better for thousands of New Yorkers.

Metro IAF (www.metro-iaf-ny.org) is a network of broad-based, non-partisan, multi-issue grassroots community organizations, each made up of congregations, schools, neighborhood and other organizations throughout the country, including in Manhattan, the South Bronx, East Brooklyn, and Queens.

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I'm Fredy Cruz-Martinez, a volunteer leader with Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services, Manhattan Together, and Metro IAF.

8 years ago, while coming home late from work, I was stopped by the police. They asked "did you hear the gunshot?" I said no. They asked to see my ID. I showed them my Mexican Consular ID. They said "this is fake." I was afraid because this was the only ID I had, and I thought they would take me to jail. Fortunately, all they did was search me, ask me a few questions, and let me go. But others haven't been so lucky. We've heard many stories of people in our community being taken to the precinct for hours when they couldn't produce an ID that the police recognized.

So, like Metro IAF member congregations Saint Joseph Patron in Bushwick, and Our Lady of Lourdes in West Harlem, we at Little Sisters started to produce our own ID's, like this one. We negotiated with the precincts in East Harlem. They were happy to recognize our IDs, as were the police in West Harlem and Bushwick. Local schools, hospitals, and other important agencies also recognized them. A local credit union even lets people open up an account with our ID.

However, while this helps a lot in our neighborhoods, outside it doesn't help as much.

This is why we strongly support the City producing a municipal ID that anyone who lives in New York City could get, and is recognized by all City agencies. We in Metro IAF want to work with the Mayor, Council and Police to make sure this ID is done right.

Everyone deserves this basic peace of mind.

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My name is Batya Miller. I am a leader in Manhattan Together and am here to talk about why it is important to apply for a municipal ID. This city program would finally give countless New Yorkers an important benefit they now lack. While it will certainly help vulnerable New Yorkers, like undocumented immigrants, the homeless and the formerly incarcerated, it would also improve my life and the lives of many others.

Like many other New Yorkers, I don't drive and I love living in a city where you don't need to. A driver's license has become the de facto photo ID all over the country. I've somehow managed to squeak by with my university library card (with a photo) and more recently my senior citizen Metrocard when I have been asked to show photo ID. Such situations have been stressful at times as not everyone readily accepted them.

I finally hit a brick wall several months ago when I went to return something at a major woman's clothing chain. They would not refund the credit charge, because they did not view either ID as official. I was not able to return the item and have never gone back to that store.

As a non-driver, I am really looking forward to receiving a NYC ID. The ID should be relatively easy to apply for, at community friendly places like libraries and congregations. It can then become a/the primary ID for the many non-drivers in this city (citizens and others). I know it will both simplify my life and link me in a small but significant way to other New Yorkers who contribute to the wonderful diversity of this great city.

South Bronx Churches

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Hello my name Lucio Escamilla. I'm a member of Immaculate Conception Church and a leader in South Bronx Churches and Metro IAF. I know personally how important it is that all New Yorkers have access to an ID that is recognized everywhere in this City.

In 2005, I was stopped by the police. They asked to see my ID. I showed them my Mexican Consular ID card, and a valid Michigan drivers license. They claimed that both were fake, and actually threw them on the ground.

They then took me to a holding cell for the night. The next day, the judge dismissed the case immediately and I was free to go, but I should not have had to spend the night in jail. My family should not have had to worry.

And I know many people in my community, and in my church, who have also spent a night in jail, only because they did not have a recognized ID.

The City of New York has to start to producing its own ID, so that this never has to happen again. People should not be taken to jail unnecessarily and police should be able to spend their time on real criminals.

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My name is Sue Dorn. I am a member of Central Synagogue and a leader in Manhattan Together and Metro IAF.

One hundred and ten years ago this summer a woman left the Ukraine with her three small children. She landed in Boston, made her way across the United States to Oregon, where she met her husband who had gone there the year before. He eventually became a citizen, but between raising their 11 children and helping with their small grocery store, she never had the opportunity. Although life was so much better in the United States, she was never completely comfortable because she was not a citizen. As a result, for most of her life she always carried her "Alien Registration Card"—this card! In the back of her mind she thought someone might pick her up and send her back to the Ukraine, separating her from her family and friends. This apprehension was so intense that she took the card with her to the hospital when she was on death's door step.

I have this card because she was my grandmother. Even as a small child, I understood her uneasiness and how much this card was a life line for her.

No one should have to walk the streets without recognized identification. Things happen—people get stopped, busses jump curbs, and in an era of increasing security, we all need ID to enter places where we have to go.

The lack of an easily accessible ID is a major problem for many, including: immigrants, students whose permanent residences are elsewhere, the elderly and those who do not drive. As an 80 year old, I won't be driving much longer and would find it helpful to have an easily attainable municipal ID rather than go through the hassle of dealing with New York State's DMV.

Metro IAF looks forward to working with the City to make sure this effort is implemented properly. Outreach will be necessary to convince all New Yorkers that its to their benefit to get these IDs. Only then will we be assured that there is no stigma attached to possessing the card. I will be among the first to be issued one. Like my grandmother, I will always carry it!

THE MEXICAN CONSULAR ID CARD

SECURE AND RELIABLE IDENTIFICATION FOR MEXICANS ABROAD

An instrument to assist Mexican citizens

The Consular Identification Card —known as *Matrícula Consular*— was created as proof of Mexican nationality and foreign address. It is issued by Mexican consulates after a rigorous process to confirm the identity and residence of the bearer.



The main responsibility of consulates is to provide services, assistance, and protection to nationals abroad. This is a foreign policy priority for the Government of Mexico.

Mexican consulates implement preventive protection and communication strategies to promote the full respect of the rights of Mexican nationals. They work with local authorities and other partners to help build long lasting relationships at the local level.

Mexican consulates issue secure, reliable and tamper proof documents such as passports and Consular ID Cards.

Consular ID Cards have no bearing whatsoever on a person's immigration status.

The information contained in the IDs is centralized in a database that is useful to locate Mexican nationals in case of emergency.

A reliable and widely accepted ID

The Consular Identification Card is issued in accordance to Mexican privacy laws (Access to Information Law, 2002) and to international legal instruments subscribed by Mexico and the United States (Vienna Convention of Consular Relations, 1963).

This document is recognized as a proof of identity by numerous banks and financial institutions, and by Mexican and US authorities, at the federal, state and local levels.

Main security features of the Consular ID Card

- Visual and hidden security elements.
- Supported by a centralized system to avoid duplications and confirm the authenticity of required documents and personal information.
- Validated against a Stop List Data Base.
- Robust verification procedure of nationality and identity.
- Procedures and requirements are equivalent to those of the Mexican Passport System.
- Bi-dimensional Bar Code (PDF417) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR).
- Fingerprints and signature, in addition to other biometric elements.
- Digital files are created, containing proof of citizenship and identity documents.
- The Consular ID data base is linked to the Mexican National Security data bases.

Consular ID Cards Application

Requirements: A Mexican birth certificate, an official Mexican ID, proof of address within the corresponding consular jurisdiction, and the corresponding fee.

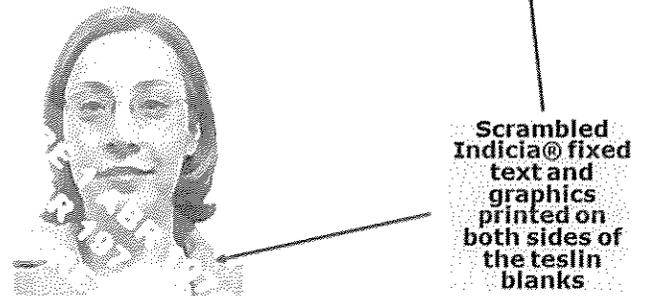
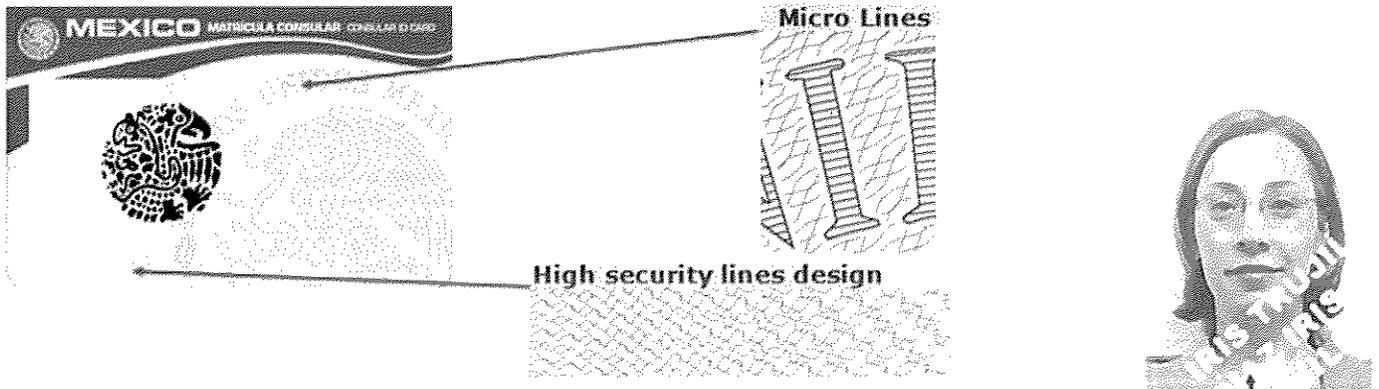
A Consular ID cannot be issued if the applicant has a criminal record, is subject to prosecution, or faces a judicial or administrative process in Mexico.

SRE

SECRETARIA DE
RELACIONES EXTERIORES



A closer look at the Consular Identification Card



SRE
SECRETARÍA DE
RELACIONES EXTERIORES



Northern Manhattan

COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

**Testimony of Angela Fernandez, Executive Director
New York City Council
Municipal ID Card Hearing
April 30, 2014**

Good Afternoon. I want to thank the members of the City Council for this opportunity to speak. My name is Angela Fernandez and I am the Executive Director for the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights (NMCIR), a 30 year old community based organization that serves 6,000 immigrants a year. The bulk of individuals served by our organization are residents of the Bronx and Manhattan.

My organization began more than three decades ago to provide access to vital services to NYC residents. Many were recent immigrants who did not yet know how to navigate this enormous city and longtime immigrants who still had trouble figuring out where to access services. We began in the communities of Washington Heights and the South Bronx, with staff and community leaders grounded in the realities of people we served. We stepped in to fill a gap in access to services and also in advocacy for additional resources. NMCIR like many other organizations in this room, have been successful in providing these services to our local communities because we have proved to be trustworthy and accountable.

For the Municipal ID Card Program to fulfill its role in filling a gap in access to services, it must take a page from the lessons learned from community organizations like NMCIR. As the NYC City Council reviews possible agencies and departments to administer the program, it should look to the libraries and the schools that have forged this relationship with the communities that surround them. City agencies like the parks, libraries, and schools are seen as places the community can trust and places many associate with positive experiences.

Another major consideration to factor in is to train those city workers administering the program to be culturally competent to fully serve all of NYC residents. It is no coincidence that the majority of communities advocating for this program currently find themselves at the fringes of the city and beyond access to vital resources that their taxes are funding. But that is the beauty of this program, it will take a step in a positive direction to really impact all New Yorkers. Just looking around at all the faces in these rooms gives you an idea of the great diversity that stands to benefit from this program. Looking around will give you the sense of the important step, if done correctly, it will be to integrate all New Yorkers. And if done with genuine accountability with community partners, the city will find and understand further ways to continue integration of all its residents.

If successful, the Municipal ID program will make it easier for NYC residents to borrow books from the library, to open bank accounts, to lease apartments, and provide an essential tool to facilitate individuals' access to basic services needed for stability. If successful it should train the staff at city agencies to be more culturally and socially competent. Ensuring that this program is inclusive and accessible will go a long way in demonstrating this administration's genuine commitment to build a New York for all New Yorkers.

City Council Hearing on a

Resolution regarding Int. No. 253, a Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the creation of a New York City identity card program.

Testimony by Ravi Ragbir
New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City
239 Thompson St
New York, NY 10012

My name is Ravi Ragbir, director of the New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC, NSC. The NSC commends the Chair of the Immigration Committee, Councilman Carlos Menchaca, Councilman Danny Dromm and the New York City Council for spearheading this effort to create a New York City Identity card for resident of New York City.

The NSC is a network of inter-faith organizations consisting of churches, mosques, synagogues and temples working to keep families together when they or their loved ones are facing deportation. We advocate for a real and true immigration policy that would allow everyone to live with dignity. We work with people who are undocumented, released from immigration custody and prison.

There are thousands of people in this wonderful city who live in fear everyday. They are afraid because they don't have identification and they fear that if they were caught without identification they would face exile and the breakup of their families because they or their loved ones will be deported. They are justified in their fear, as there were over two million people who were deported in the last five years. People were nabbed whether they were at home, at work or travelling to and from work. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE quickly identified them, because of this lack of identification.

Everyone needs identification to live in this city. In the name of "Security" a lot of the buildings are asking for ID's before you are allowed to enter the building even public buildings are asking for ID's and if you don't have an ID

you will not want to risk going into that building. Coming into this hearing the security guards were asking for identification.

You need an ID to access hospitals and school both very critical institutions if you have children. What happens when our children get sick and we are afraid to take them to the hospital to get treatment?

Adults are asked for ID's to go into schools and rightly so to ensure the safety of our children. But again our members who do not have an ID are afraid to go into the school. Everyone suffers because of this. The teachers are frustrated because they cannot meet and talk to the parents, the parents are afraid of coming into the school to meet with the teachers and the children suffer.

You cannot open a bank account without an ID, which means that thousands of NYers don't have a bank account. They cannot cash their check in the bank and have to use cash checking places that charge exorbitant fees. Those people don't have anywhere to deposit their hard-earned monies so they keep them on their person or in their homes making them susceptible to unscrupulous persons.

Immigrants who are victims of criminal activity are afraid to report it to the police because they are afraid that the police will ask them for identification and if they don't have identification the police will call immigration to take them away. This breeds greater violence upon that community. Immigrants will not come forward if they witness any crime because they don't trust the police and are not willing to work with them.

Customs and Border Patrol, CBP who goes onto trains and buses can nab immigrants who are travelling without an ID and place them in removal proceedings. This happens here in New York State along the US-Canadian border. CBP has the authority to act within 100 miles from any border and we hear stories that immigrants travelling on buses to places like Chicago are taken away by CBP. We hold workshops to tell people that they cannot just get on a bus anymore, they have to learn the route the bus or train takes because if it goes close to the border then CBP can pick them up. A New York City ID will help in those situations.

Our members who were held by Immigration and Customs Enforcement for months or years and are released from immigration prison are released without any proper documentation. They are given only a paper with their name and photo on it. No one accepts this ICE document, neither the police department, other federal offices nor private institutions like the banks. Their lives have already been devastated and with an ID they can access resources to start pulling their lives together. They can get housing, open a bank account, and go to school and many more to start living.

This proposal makes it attractive to our other members who are citizens. According to the proposal it is going to be much more accessible. This will be much easier for our elderly and infirmed and it proves both identity and residency. This is great because when everyone has a NY City ID this will not be a scarlet letter to identify non-citizens.

In conclusion, we applaud and support the City Council on this legislation. We applaud the fact that the weight of New York City will make this a very creditable form of identification for all residences in the city regardless of status. We ask that this bill is flexible to allow applicants to prove their identity and their residence, that it protects the applicants' confidentiality, and that it is affordable.

Testimony from NICE's worker.

Hearing: April 30, 2014

Carlos Vasquez, NICE's member, construction worker.

Buenos dias, mi nombre es Carlos Vasquez, soy miembro de la organizacion NICE, y soy obrero de la construccion.

El ID Municipal seria algo fundamental para nosotros los trabajadores de esta industria y de otras. Por ejemplo, con un ID me sentiría seguro y libre de estar en esta ciudad, como debe de ser el derecho para todos.

Algo muy importante tambien es que a la hora de que un policia me pida identificación se la podria enseñar sin temor de que no la acepte o me juzgue solo por ser un inmigrante trabajador.

Tengo muchos compañeros jornaleros de la construccion a los que se les ha detenido por el simple hecho de no tener id y a pesar de que no han cometido un delito. Lo veo casi siempre en mi vecindario en Queens y en las estaciones del tren.

ademas, no me siento a gusto de que alguna agencia tuviera mis datos y entonces por eso pido que no guarden los datos. si no, no nos sentiriamos seguros y entonces ni siquiera quisiéramos obtener este id.

Gracias.

TRANSLATION:

Good morning, my name is Carlos Vasquez. I am a member of the NICE organization and I'm a construction worker.

The Municipal ID would be something important to us workers of the constrcution industry and others. For example, an ID would make me feel safe and free to be in this city, as these sentiments should be a right for us all.

Very importantly, having an id would help me when interacting a with a police officer. When the police asks me for identification I can show it to them without the fear of them nor accepting it or judging me for being a migrant worker.

I have many construction co-laborers who has been stopped by the police for the simple fact of not having an id and being arrested although they have not committed a crime. I see it mostly in my neighborhood in Queens and in the train stations.

I do not feel comfortable that any agency has my data and this is why I would like to ask for them not to keep any of our data. If not, we would not feel safe accessing this id and would not even get this id.

Thank you.

Adriana Escandón | Community Organizer
Main: 718.205.8796 | Fax: 718.396.2706 | www.nynice.org
New Immigrant Community Empowerment
37-41 77th St., 2nd Fl
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tani Mill

Address: _____

I represent: -Center for Employment Opportunity

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: REV LIAM O'DOHERTY

Address: 10 AUSTIN PL. ST. NY

I represent: OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Address: 10 AUSTIN PL. ST. PARISH

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bishop Fundlauer

Address: _____

I represent: CUSSH

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

4
**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rev Terry Troia

Address: _____

I represent: Project Hospitality

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Annie Wang

Address: _____

I represent: AILA - American Immigration Lawyers

Address: Association

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 263 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steven Choi

Address: 1090 Jackson Ave, LIC NY

I represent: New York Immigration Coalition

Address: 137139 W 25th St.

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 253

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jessica Orzcu, Esq.

Address: _____

I represent: Hispanic Federation

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jeff Foreman

Address: 30 E. 33RD ST, NY NY

I represent: Care for the Homeless

Address: 30 E. 23rd ST NY NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tom Carlos Gomez

Address: _____

I represent: Make the Road - Members

Address: undocumented community

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Fredy Cruz Martinez

Address: PO Box 610 NYC, NY 10029

I represent: LSA, Manhattan Together Metro IAT

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 04/30/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JASON CHANG

Address: _____

I represent: NATIONAL ~~REDE~~ FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CREDIT UNIONS

Address: # 87 BROADWAY, SUITE 2140

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

re: Banking Access in favor in opposition

Date: 4-30-14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Deborah Del Rio, For

Address: 457 1st St, Brooklyn, NY 11215

I represent: New Economy Project

Address: 176 Grand St #300, NY NY 10013

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jojo Xunobli

Address: 199 Water Street

I represent: Legal Aid Society

Address: 199 Water Street

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DR. Kirk Anthony James

Address: 29-76 Northern Blvd

I represent: The Fortune Society

Address: 29-76 Northern Blvd

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JEFFREY M. WICE FOR ASSEMBLYMAN ORTIZ

Address: 907 55 ST, BRKLYN

I represent: ASSEMBLYMAN ORTIZ

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Mizue Aizeln ~~Immigrant Defense~~

Address: 28 W 39th 10018 ~~Project~~

I represent: Immigrant Defense Project

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Gale Brewer, Manhattan BP (Hally Chu to read)

Address: 1 Centre St., 19th Floor

I represent: Gale Brewer, Manhattan BP

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Yolanda Castro

Address: 27 E 39th St.

I represent: MEXICAN CONSULATE

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Anne Pilsbury (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Central American Legal Assistance

Address: 240 Hooper St. Brooklyn

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30

Name: Joseph Rosenberg (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 1011 1st Ave

I represent: Catholic Community Relations Council

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

Name: Luis Quinones (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 275 Seventh Ave

I represent: Teamsters Joint Council 16

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LUCIO ESCAMILLA
Address: 2300 BRONX PAR EAST - 3-E
I represent: INMULCATE C. CH SOUTH BRONX CIL.
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253-14 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 9/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Virginia M. Goggin
Address: 1040A STERLING PLACE BROOKLYN NY 11213
I represent: New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence
Address: 240 W. 35TH ST NY, NY 10001 Project:
Suit 200

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bryan J. Ellicott
Address: 8 Wilson Ave, SI NY 10308
I represent: _____
Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

OTHER OPTION!
the Oakland Model II in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DR. PAUL CRUZ TAKASHI

Address: Oakland CA

I represent: SF GLOBAL/Oakland City ID PREPAID

Address: 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza Oakland
Master CARD Program

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ethan Carr

Address: 1401 I. St. NW Washington, DC

I represent: MasterCard Worldwide

Address: Same as above

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LARRIE IZUMI

Address: 1360 FULTON ST #301 BROOKLYN

I represent: BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES/LEGAL SERVICES NYC

Address: 40 WORTH ST

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SUE B. DORN

Address: 25 EAST 86TH ST. NYC 10028

I represent: METRO IAF - MANHATTAN TOGETHER

Address: 125 E. 105TH NYC 10022

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rev. Getulio - Cruz Jr.

Address: 297 E. Third Street NY NY

I represent: Manhattan Together - Metro IAF

Address: 125 E 105th St NY NY 10002

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Diane Stearns

Address: 112 - 01 Queens Blvd

I represent: Interfaith Network for Human Rights

Address: same as above

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: April 30, 14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DR. PAUL HINOJOSA

Address: 229 W. 60st

I represent: Liberation CARD SERVICES

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: APRIL 30 2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DANIEL ROSE

Address: 30 N BROADWAY WHITE PLAINS NY 10601

I represent: MASTERCARD INC.

Address: 2000 Purchase St, Purchase NY 10577

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sharon Chmwell

Address: _____

I represent: SEIU 32BJ

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rogers

Address: c/o Picture The Homeless

I represent: Picture The Homeless

Address: Morris Ave Bx

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GABRIELA SANDOVAL REQUENA

Address: 511 W 184 ST. 3 NEW YORK, NY 10033

I represent: COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Address: 129 FULTON STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10038

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: April 30th

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jeff Foreman

Address: _____

I represent: Care for the Homeless

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Batya Miller

Address: 300 Riverside Dr., #9E

I represent: Manhattan Together

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sam Samuel Palmer-Simon

Address: 7 Hanover Square, NY, NY

I represent: New York Legal Assistance Group

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jean JEWBY

Address: 94 South 29th Street

I represent: Premiere Eglise Baptiste Haitienne

Address: 315 W 141st New York NY 10030

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: BITTA MOSTOFI

Address: 50 COURT ST, 9TH FLR, BROOKLYN, NY 11201

I represent: SAFE HORIZON IMMIGRATION

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mary Nofari

Address: 215 Smith St #1, Brooklyn NY

I represent: NY City Bar Association

Address: 42 W 44th St, NY NY

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Emily Tucker

Address: 202 Kent Ave Brooklyn 11205

I represent: Center for Popular Democracy

Address: same

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CAROLYN CASTRO

Address: _____

I represent: LIVERY ROUNDABLE

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John Lugo

Address: 276 Huntington St, New Haven CT

I represent: Unidad Latina en Accion

Address: 37 Howe St New Haven Connecticut

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Avik Karissa

Address: _____

I represent: LIVERY ROUNDTABLE

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Manissa Martin

Address: 50 Broad St

I represent: Coalition for Asian American Children & Families

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4-30-2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Linda Sarsour

Address: 7111 5th Avenue, Bklyn NY, 11209

I represent: Arab American Association of NY

Address: 7111 5th Avenue, BKlyn NY, 11209

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anya Mukarji-Connolly

Address: 7 Hanover Sq. NY, NY

I represent: New York Legal Assistance Group

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4-30-14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Noah Lewis

Address: 151 W 19th St. Ste 1103 NY NY 10011

I represent: Transgender Legal Defense + Education Fund

Address: 3553 82nd St. Apt 6D Jackson Heights NY 11372

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Annie J. Wangron behalf of American Immigration

Address: Lawyers Ass'n, NY Chapter 225 W. 106th St, NYC

I represent: _____

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ARELY GONZALEZ

Address: _____

I represent: MAKE the ROAD - Transgender Woman

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JESUS CASTELLANOS

Address: _____

I represent: MILNY - Youth member

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CARLOS ELIAS VASQUEZ ZAMBRANO

Address: _____

I represent: yo represento NICE

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jong-Min You

Address: 188 Ave D Brooklyn NY

I represent: M. n kwon Center

Address: Queens

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elana Redfield

Address: 147 W. 24th St. 5th Fl

I represent: transgender new yorkers / Sylvia Rivera

Address: Law project

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Esther Sanchez

Address: 33-39 - Junction Blv

I represent: Faith in New York

Address: 108-64-39th Corona NY 11368

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nancy Magidsa

Address: 586 20th St

I represent: _____

Address: Brooklyn, NY 11218

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nisha Agarwal

Address: 253 Broadway 114th Fl NY, NY 10007

I represent: Mayor's office of Immigrant Affairs

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 253 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hindy Tarlow

Address: 253 Broadway 10th Fl.

I represent: Mayor's office of Operations

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lynly S. Edyds

Address: 123 William St. 1661

I represent: Sex Workers Project

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lidia Gomez

Address: 25 West 18th St

I represent: LA Fuente, a Tri-State Worker and

Address: 176 Grand St. Community Fund

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Glennnda Testone

Address: 242 13th St. Apt 2 BL, NY 11215

I represent: LGBT Center NYC

Address: 200 W. 13th St. NYC 10011

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 04/30/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Laurien Burke

Address: 185A 33rd St, Brooklyn NY 11232

I represent: Atlas: DIY

Address: 278 44th St, 2nd FL Bklyn NY 11232

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Diana Reyna, Brooklyn Dep. Borough

Address: President

I represent: _____

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆