

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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December 5, 2016
Start: 10:15 a.m.
Recess: 11:20 a.m.

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

B E F O R E: CARLOS MENCHACA
Chairperson

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

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

Helen Drook, Senior Staff Attorney
New York Legal Assistance Group, NYLAG

Brian C. Ellis Gibbs
Faith Based Community Engagement Coordinator
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, FPWA

Alden Nesbitt
Black Institute

Abertine Gene (sic)
Black Alliance for Just Immigration, BAJI

1 COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

3

2 [sound check, pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: We are ready.

4 Well, since you're back here.(sic) Okay. [pause]

5 Hello. [background comments] Okay. [pause] Hello.

6 Testing. We're going to--yeah, this is--this is good.

7 I think this is--this is good, a little bit--a little

8 bit higher. Testing one, two, low. [background

9 comments] Higher, yes. As long as you're recording
10 on that side, this is good for me. [background

11 comments] You're good? Okay. We're going to get

12 started. [gavel] [Speaking Spanish] My name is

13 Carlos Menchaca, and I am the Chair of New York City

14 Council's Committee on Immigration. Before going any

15 further I would like to introduce the other members

16 of this incredibly important committee, hardworking

17 committee. We have Queens, our former chair of the

18 Immigration Committee Danny Dromm, Council Member

19 Ken--Council Member Danny Dromm, Council Member

20 Mathieu Eugene from Brooklyn, who is also a spon--the

21 sponsor of one of the resolutions today, and from

22 Queens Council Member Peter Koo. Today, the

23 Immigration Committee will hear two resolutions that

24 affirm the city's unwavering commitment to its

25 immigrant community, and those in need of

2 humanitarian relief within in our borders and abroad.
3 The first reso the committee will hear today is 1290
4 sponsored by Council Member Eugene, and a host of
5 other council members, which calls up on the
6 Secretary of Homeland Security to grant Haiti a new
7 designation for temporary protected status to provide
8 temporary immigration relief to eligible Haitian
9 nationals in the United States, and also to stop the
10 deportation of Haitian nationals who are not eligible
11 for any form of immigration relief in light of the
12 destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew. Hurricane
13 Matthew, which struck Haiti on October 4, 2016, was
14 the worst storm to hit the country in 50 years, and
15 the worst natural disaster in Haiti since the
16 devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake of 2010. In
17 just a matter of days, Hurricane Matthew took the
18 lives of roughly 1,000 Haitian nationals, and forced
19 at least 175,000 Haitians into temporary shelters,
20 and thousands more to seek refuge with families or
21 friends, and across the country livestock and crops
22 were devastated with some regions losing between 80
23 to 90% of their crops. The United States responded
24 to Haiti's call for assistance by developing a naval
25 ship search and rescue military helicopters, food and

2 supplies, but our country can do more to support
3 Haiti during this difficult time. While Haiti
4 received a Temporary Protected Status design-
5 designation after the 2010 earthquake, Haitian
6 national-Haitian nationals who arrive in the United
7 States after July 20-July 23' 2011, do not qualify-
8 qualify for temporary immigration relief. A new
9 designation would allow eligible Haitian born nation-
10 nationals, who cannot safely return to their country
11 in light of Hurricane Matthew's devastation to remain
12 in the United States temporarily, and obtain work
13 authorization during that time. Additionally, only
14 days before Hurricane Matthew hit, the U.S. announced
15 it would resume efforts to repatriate Haitian
16 nationals who are not eligible for immigration
17 relief. Although these efforts were placed on a
18 brief hold after hurricane-after the hurricane, the
19 U.S. should more permanently stop repatriations in
20 light of the-of the severe destruction of Hurricane
21 Matthew.

22 Next, we will be also hearing today, a
23 preconsidered resolution sponsored by City Council
24 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member Lander
25 and myself. The resolution affirms that despite

2 President-Elect Trump's senseless threats, New York
3 City will remain a sanctuary city for immigrant
4 residents. Although there are no official def-
5 inition of sanctuary city, the term is generally
6 used to describe cities that have laws and policies
7 that restrict their level of cooperation with
8 immigration authorities to identify and detain
9 immigrants who may not—who may be subject to
10 deportation. While not a new concept, sanctuary
11 cities have recently come under heavy fire due to the
12 sharp rise in anti-immigrant rhetoric due in large
13 part to the myths and hateful words spewed by
14 President-Elect Trump, and other Republican
15 presidential hopefuls. President-Elect Trump founded
16 his entire campaign on an anti-immigrant platform.
17 He villainized immigrants, both documented and
18 undocumented at every point, at every opportunity he
19 had. His proposals on immigration policy and
20 enforcement, while alarming as a candidate have
21 raised unprecedented fear among immigrant communities
22 now that he will soon take office in January. Now,
23 more than ever New York City must stand firm against
24 overly harsh federal immigration polices, and defend
25 out long-standing tradition of welcoming all who come

2 to harbor regardless of race, ethnicity, religion,
3 gender identity, sexual orientation or immigration
4 status including those who have no status at all.

5 The City will defend immigrant protection—protections
6 already in place such as the Detainer Laws, which
7 limit the Department of Correction's and NYPD
8 cooperation with immigration authorities, and remove
9 ICE from Rikers Island. We will protect that.

10 Executive Orders 34 and 41, which ensure
11 that immigration status is not a barrier to assess—
12 accessing city services, limits the inquiry of
13 immigration status by city employees, and law
14 enforcement, and protects the confidentiality of
15 personal data such as immigration status. We will
16 protect that.

17 Executive Order 120, which ensures
18 language access services to that limited English
19 proficiency—sorry. Which ensures language access
20 services so that limited English proficiency is not a
21 barrier to accessing our city services. In fact, the
22 Council seeks to codify and expand these protections
23 and recently held a public hearing on Intro 1181,
24 which would do just that. New York City is also a
25 sanctuary city on account of our commitment to—to

2 ensuring that our immigrant communities thrive. Our
3 investments and initiatives that bring comprehensive
4 services to immigrants are unparalleled and include:

5 NYIFUP, the New York Immigrant Family
6 Unity Project provides legal counsel to immigrants in
7 detention who face deportation.

8 The Unaccompanied Minors and Family
9 Initiative, which provides legal representation and
10 immigrate-in immigration court to unaccompanied-
11 unaccompanied children and mothers who fled extreme
12 violence in Central America and seek refuge in the
13 United States.

14 Our incredible Key to the City events,
15 which bring community partners and free immigration
16 legal services into neighborhoods across the five
17 boroughs.

18 CUNY's Citizenship Now, which brings
19 immigration attorneys into Council Member's offices.

20 Adult literacy, bridging the gap, the
21 education gap, which includes civics and English
22 classes in our neighborhoods.

23 The Immigrant Health Initiative is a
24 quality healthcare connecting quality healthcare to
25 our immigrant communities.

2 Day Laborer Workforce Initiative provides
3 some of the most vulnerable immigrant workers with
4 invaluable information about labor law protections so
5 that they assert their rights when faced with wage
6 theft, and work safety violations.

7 Despite the uncertainty, surrounding
8 future immigration policies nationwide, one thing is
9 certain, New York City will not be shaken. We
10 tireless-tirelessly defend our immigrant communities
11 to the full extent of the law. We will stand up to
12 hate, and we will prevail. [Speaking Spanish] And
13 with that, I'm going to hand it over before we bring
14 our first panel to Council Member Mathieu Eugene, who
15 will speak on his resolution today. Council Member
16 Mathieu Eugene.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
18 much. [pause] Okay. Can you hear me? Is it on?
19 [background comments] Very good. Thank you much.
20 Thank you very much, Menchaca, and first and
21 foremost, let me take the opportunity to thank all
22 the-all of the dedicated advocates for immigrants.
23 All of you, each one and all of you here today who
24 come to testify, and I wanted to take the opportunity
25 also to thank not only those who are here, but also

2 those who are not here for their support to Haiti any
3 time that Haiti is facing difficulties in the past,
4 and we all remember the horrific earthquake in Haiti
5 in 2010, and all of us New Yorkers, and people in the
6 United States we came together to provide, you know,
7 tremendous relief to Haiti, and that made a very big
8 difference in the life of my Haitian brothers and
9 sisters in Haiti, and that helped also overcome
10 difficulties that they were facing. To all of you,
11 thank you so very much, and I want to express my
12 gratitude also to Chair Menchaca, a fighter also for
13 immigrants. Thank you so much, and to all of my
14 colleagues and the—from the immigration community,
15 than you so very much. I want to single out one
16 person because I know that all of you, you have been
17 fighting and protecting immigrants and we actually a
18 lot tremendous success for immigrant people because
19 we all know that New York City is home to so many
20 people coming from all over the place, and I think
21 that all of those people, you know, work hard and
22 contribute to the fabric of New York City and also
23 those people in the United States coming from
24 everywhere they work hard also to contribute to the
25 fabric of the United States of America. That's is

2 exactly what makes the United States the greatest
3 country in the world. You cannot close the door to
4 them to those people who are coming right now. But I
5 want to single out one person Bishop Sansaricq (sic)
6 who—who is in the back who is going to testify. The
7 reason I want to—to single out Bishop Sansaricq is
8 because he's a dedicated strong fighter for
9 immigrants way before my peers here. So I want to
10 express my gratitude to him thank him also for
11 everything he has done not only for the Haitian
12 people but for all immigrants in New York City and
13 Miami where before. Bishop Sansaricq, thank you so
14 very much. Thank you. What I want to say is that
15 Haiti has been struck by several natural disasters,
16 one after the other one, and recently, you know, the
17 Hurricane Matthew, but that created a situation worse
18 than before because Haiti was already in trouble and
19 trying to recover from the earthquake. Now, it is
20 very, very difficult for Haiti to recover. Any
21 country in the world even, you know, a rich country
22 would be—have difficulty to recover after several,
23 you know, natural disasters, and I think it makes
24 sense that we elected officials, we are advocating.
25 We work together to ensure that the American

2 government and Homeland Security create a TPS to
3 those people, those Haitian people who are now in the
4 United States because they cannot return to Haiti.
5 Haiti cannot sustain them. You know, there's a
6 certain part of Haiti is completely devastated. You
7 know that, and that's the reason I introduced the
8 legislation to Resolution 1290 asking or calling
9 upon—upon the Secretary of the Department of Homeland
10 Security to grant Haiti a new designation for
11 Temporary Protected Status, to provide temporary
12 immigration relief to admissible Haitian nationals in
13 the United States as well as to stop the potential
14 repatriation of Haitian nationals ineligible for
15 immigration relief in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.
16 Again, I thank all of you, and I want to thank also
17 my colleagues, and I'm urging my colleagues to vote
18 yes on the resolution. Thank you very much. Thank
19 you Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you, Council
21 Member Eugene, and I will be reminding everybody here
22 today that we'll voting on both of these resolutions
23 after we've heard from all of you today. I also
24 encourage you to speak on both resolutions on both
25 the Sanctuary City Resolution and the—and the Haitian

2 TPS Resolution as well, and you can get appearance
3 cards. You can fill them out over here. So we can
4 call you on. We're going to call the first panel up
5 to speak on Reso 1290, and we have three members here
6 today with us. Helen Drook from NYLAG, Brian Ellis
7 from FPWA and Alden Nesbitt from the Black Institute.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Mr. Chair, will
9 you allow for a minute. With your permission I will—
10 with the permission of Mr. Chair, I want also to
11 express my—my strong, my strong thanks and my
12 heartfelt thanks also to NYLAG. NYLAG is such a
13 wonderful, wonderful organization helping all of us,
14 all the City Council members, you know, helping our
15 constituents with respect to immigration and legal
16 services. From the bottom of my heart thank you so
17 very much because NYLAG has been there with me and
18 with us from the day one when we had to do the first
19 resolution, the TPS for Haitians. They're all the
20 time there when we're fighting for immigrants. Thank
21 you very much. As a matter of fact, I think on
22 December 12, we're going to have NYLAG in my office
23 providing legal services to all my constituents, and
24 we're going to have NYLAG also, and I think on
25 December 13 back again because they're doing a

2 wonderful job. Thank you on my behalf and on behalf
3 of my constituents and on behalf also of all New
4 Yorkers. Thank you for the wonderful job that you
5 are doing. Thank you.

6 HELEN DROOK: [off mic]

7 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Can-if-if you can
8 turn-turn on the mic so we can--

9 HELEN DROOK: Alright, can you hear me
10 now?

11 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Yes.

12 HELEN DROOK: Okay, great.

13 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: And-and-again, I--

14 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [interposing]

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: --I also want to--
17 I-I can't thank you enough. Key to the City would
18 not be Key to the City without NYLAG, without you,
19 without your team. So thank you as well.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: And with that
22 said--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I would like, Mr.
24 Chair, I want to excuse myself. I got to go to vote,
25 and thank you very much.

2 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Yes, you have to
3 go to vote, that's right.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I'll be back
5 right after that.

6 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: You'll be back.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you so
8 much.

9 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you so much,
10 and are there three members?

11 HELEN DROOK: Uh-huh.

12 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: All of them?

13 HELEN DROOK: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Yes and he—he's on
15 his way. Great. Thank you.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Okay, if we can
18 start.

19 HELEN DROOK: Great. Chair Menchaca,
20 Council Members, staff, good morning. Thank for the
21 opportunity to speak here today on Council
22 Resolutions 1290. My name is Helen Drook, and I'm
23 the Senior Staff Attorney at NYLAG. Thank you for
24 all the good words. NYLAG is one of the largest
25 providers of free legal services in the city of New

2 York. We server immigrants, seniors, veterans,
3 homebound, families facing foreclosure, renters
4 facing eviction, low-income consumers, those who need
5 government assistance, children in need of special
6 education, domestic violence victims, persons with
7 disabilities, patients with chronic illness or
8 disease, low-wage workers, low-income members of the
9 LGBTQ community, Holocaust survivors as well as
10 others in need of free legal services. NYLAG
11 strongly supports Resolution 1290 calling upon the
12 Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to
13 grant Haiti a new designation for TPS to provide
14 temporary immigration relief to eligible Haitian
15 nationals in the United States, as well as stop the
16 detention and repatriation of Haitian nationals
17 ineligible for immigration relief in the wake of
18 Hurricane Matthew. The earthquake the hit Haiti on
19 January 12, 2010 caused incredible destruction doing
20 an estimated 12-150,000 (sic) and displacing 1.3
21 million people, over one-tenth of the total
22 population. Without the infrastructure to quickly
23 rebuild, the earthquake exacerbated many of the
24 challenges to the space and even prior to 2010.
25 Poverty, environmental degradation, economic and

2 political vulnerability. The rebuilding process has
3 been further hampered by catastrophes such as
4 Hurricane Matthew and the Cholera epidemic.

5 Under Section 244(b)(1) of the Immigration
6 Nationality Act, the Secretary of State is authorized
7 to designate the foreign state for Temporary
8 Protective Status, TPS, upon finding that such state
9 is experiencing an ongoing conflict and environmental
10 disaster or extraordinary and temporary condition.

11 As a result of the devastation caused by the January
12 12th, earthquake, on January 15, 2010, the Secretary
13 for the Department of Homeland Security designated
14 Haiti for TPS. The U.S. Government has renewed TPS
15 for Haiti several times most recently in January 2016
16 extending it through July 2017. In a re-designation
17 and the extension of Haitian TPS, the federal
18 government has clearly recognized that the situation
19 in Haiti remains catastrophic, and that returning
20 Haitian nationals present here residing in the U.S.
21 to Haiti would violate the humanitarian principles
22 and what—upon which our country and its immigration
23 laws were built. The designation of Haiti for TPS
24 with them not only to keep people from returning to
25 the country where life threatening conditions

2 persist, but also to ensure economic health for the
3 district and country. TPS allows people not only to
4 stay in the U.S., but also to obtain employment
5 authorization and to work. NYLAG has first hand
6 knowledge under-of the benefits of TPS. Since 2010,
7 NYLAG has helped thousands of Haitians obtain TPS and
8 remain in the United States. We have also provided
9 free legal services to another 700 plus Haitian
10 nationals helping them obtain citizenship travel
11 documents and other immigration relief. NYLAG has
12 conducted 22 large scale clinics in partnership with
13 Council Member Eugene's office, and who works
14 tirelessly for many Haitian immigrants in his
15 community. Moreover, NYLAG helped dozens of Haitian
16 nationals obtain employment through our job training
17 and placement partners. We have seen how this
18 temporary immigration relief has helped not only
19 those who were able to obtain TPS, but also their
20 families affording them an opportunity to provide
21 financial support to family members who remained in
22 devastated Haiti. In addition to granting TPS, the
23 U.S. Government has created Haitian Family
24 Reunification Parole Act to allow certain relatives
25 of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to

2 avoid dangerous conditions in Haiti, and to wait for
3 the adjustment of status in the United States. This
4 program was created prior to the time when Hurricane
5 Matthew hit, and any ICE decision to recommend remove
6 Haiti would be contrary to the recognition by the
7 U.S. Government of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in
8 Haiti. NYLAG strongly supports Resolution 1290 to
9 ensure that Haitian nationals living in the United
10 States are treated in a compassionate and humane
11 manner. Once again, I would like to thank the
12 committee for the opportunity to speak here today,
13 and to thank Council Member Eugene for his dedicated
14 work on behalf of the community. Even though I came
15 here today for the—to testify on 1290, I just want to
16 say a couple of words that NYLAG, you know, as—as a
17 provider of free legal services to immigrant
18 communities in New York, and once again, thank you
19 for the recognition that strongly supports New York
20 City remaining a sanctuary city. I mean this—this—
21 this is obviously, you know, the position that our
22 agency and we pursue it, and we strongly it. So
23 thank you for the proposal.

24 BRIAN C. ELLIS GIBBS: Good morning,
25 Chair Menchaca and the Immigration Committee. Thank

2 you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I am
3 Brian C. Ellis Gibbs. I am the Faith Based Community
4 Engagement Coordinator for FPWA, formerly known as
5 the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, as
6 well as pastor who serves in the Borough of Queens.
7 Our Executive Director Jennifer Jones Austin, and our
8 200-member based agency stands in support of
9 Resolution 1290 sponsored by Councilman Mathieu
10 Eugene. We thank Councilman Eugene for being
11 courageous in drafting this resolution, a resolution
12 that calls up the Secretary of the Department of
13 Homeland Security to grant Haiti a new designation
14 for Temporary Protective Status to provide temporary
15 immigration relief to eligible Haitian nationals in
16 the United States as well as to stop the detention and
17 repatriation of Haitian nations ineligible for
18 immigration relief. The resolution provides clear
19 statistics, data and information about the
20 devastating effects of Hurricane Matthew upon the
21 people of Haiti, and as we know, prior to the
22 hurricane, Haiti was already in crisis due to extreme
23 poverty, political unrest and after effects of the
24 earthquake that hit the country in recent years. As
25 an organization that fights to end poverty and

2 created upward mobility, working to fulfill the
3 promise of opportunity for all people in particular
4 New Yorkers, we believe that to deport persons to a
5 place that is not stabilized and secure would be a
6 tragic mistake. As the city with the second largest
7 population of Haitian immigrants and families, it is
8 our responsibility to have compassion and care, and
9 provide a safe space, a sanctuary for them until the
10 circumstances within Haiti have improved. To force
11 them to return into the present climate, will only
12 increase a population of persons who are currently
13 suffering and struggling. Through deportation we
14 only add to their trauma, and not contribute their
15 healing and recovery. Passing this type of
16 legislation is not new. There as a precedent set by
17 the New York City Council when the Council adopted a
18 vote of 51 to 0 passing Resolution 1595 also urging
19 Congress to pass legislation granting temporary
20 protect status to Haitian nations in the United
21 States. It is understood that temporary protective
22 status is an opportunity that can be offered under
23 the Immigration Act of 1990 that provides temporary
24 relief from deportation and work permit to aliens in
25 the United States who are temporarily unable to

2 safely return to their home country because of
3 ongoing conflict and environmental disaster or other
4 extraordinary and temporary conditions. In
5 supporting this resolution, our organization, many
6 who are faith and community based entities working
7 within the beautiful mosaic of diversity within our
8 city, understand that we serve and work to create and
9 support efforts that protect the welfare of our
10 people. In the current political climate within our
11 own county we hope that we act with prudence, wisdom,
12 and empathy for all who are experiencing trauma. In
13 conclusion, we affirm the inherent worth and value of
14 the humanity of our Haitian brothers and sisters and
15 the urgency of the moment by standing in support of
16 the adoption of Resolution 1290. Thank you for your
17 time, your work, and your vote to pass this critical
18 piece of legislation that may have a lasting impact
19 upon our city and our nation. Thank you so much.

20 [pause]

21 ALDEN NESBITT: Good morning [coughs].
22 Good morning everyone and thanks for having me. My
23 name is Alden Nesbitt, and I'm speaking with you
24 behalf of the Black Institute. In 2001, the
25 Department of Education recruited teachers from all

2 over the world to teach in New York City's hard to
3 staff public school. My family was one of many who
4 migrated to the United States with the hope of better
5 opportunities. At this very moment, my mother still
6 works for the Department of Education.

7 Unfortunately, teachers who came from predominantly
8 black countries in the Caribbean started having
9 issues with their process to become permanent
10 residents. It to my mother and other Caribbean
11 teachers ten plus years to get their Green Cards, and
12 there are teachers who are still waiting to be. As a
13 result of these delays, children of these educators
14 began to age out. After living in this country with
15 my family for the—from the age of 10, when I turned
16 21, I got a letter in the mail saying that I had 60
17 days to leave. This is how hundreds of youth and
18 myself unexpectedly ended up with outsiders all
19 became undocumented. I felt like my hopes and dreams
20 was taken away from me. Soon after I became
21 undocumented I learned that there were many others in
22 this identical situation. Working with the Black
23 Institute, we gathered as many children and recruited
24 professionals, and started learning more about our
25 situation. We organized. We met with our local

2 representative such as Mathieu Eugene, as he would
3 know, and other organizations who represent
4 undocumented and disenfranchised youth. Together we—
5 together with these organizations who represented
6 undocumented and disenfranchised youth. Together with
7 these organizations and help from our representatives
8 we took action. We started by supporting legislation
9 that could help and campaigned for other
10 organizations in our situations. Unfortunately,
11 there's only so much that can e done on a city or
12 state level. The DREAM Act was one of these few
13 federal legislations that gave us hope. We fought
14 hard, but the DREAM Act was—was never passed.
15 Instead, President Obama introduced an Executive
16 Order called DACA. Thanks to that—thanks to the
17 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA,
18 hundreds of thousands of undocumented child—children
19 can work, drive in a few states who are doing so
20 across the country. We all knew this was a temporary
21 solution, but it was something rather than nothing.
22 It was hope. As of January 21, 2017, the President-
23 Elect would have the power to take our hope away. No
24 matter how we came to this country or how we ended up
25 undocumented, for the majority of us this is home.

2 This is where our families and friends are. This is
3 where we work, and go to school. This is the country
4 where we dreamed of building our futures. Right now,
5 the future is uncertain, and we are all fearful of
6 what is to come. DACA recipients have a noticeable
7 and realistic fear. The Obama Administration
8 promised us protection from the deportation. What
9 they actually did was encourage many young scared
10 undocumented immigrants to come out of the shadows
11 with hopes of a better future. Now, we are all
12 vulnerable and our hopes and dreams lie in the hands
13 of the upcoming Administration. At we know that
14 discrimination and prejudice take away the futures of
15 young immigrant dreamers. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you for your
17 testimony, and we're going to bring one more—one
18 more—one more New Yorker to come and speak on I
19 believe Reso 1290, Bishop Sansaricq [background
20 comments] Bishop. Okay. Thank you Bishop so much.
21 [pause]

22 BISHOP SANSARICQ: Distinguished Council
23 Members and you ladies and gentlemen, I am here this
24 morning to support wholeheartedly Councilman Eugene's
25 request, which is very detailed in his Resolution

2 1290 that special consideration be granted to recent
3 Haitian immigrants. The United States cannot close
4 its eyes on the tragic circumstances that surround
5 the Haitian people. In this era of globalization no
6 nation can wrap itself in indifference when their
7 neighboring nation is in distress. According to the
8 estimate of International Agencies, the recent
9 hurricane class 4 that struck Haiti in October caused
10 damages to the tune of \$2 billion. Entire villages
11 have been swept away by furious 125 miles per hour
12 winds with fathom torrents suddenly formed by the
13 torrential rains on the mountains carried to the
14 ocean or the plants like corn, peas and all sorts of
15 berries and nuts or butternut trees, avocados,
16 coconut, bread fruit trees lost their branches and
17 fruits in the affected area. Animals like horses,
18 pigs, cows, goats, chickens perished by the
19 thousands. City streets were flooded spoiling
20 merchandise of every sort in stores including clinics
21 and pharmacies. The companies that have been working
22 on improving the ecology said that in two days they
23 lost the efforts of 30 years of systematic efforts.
24 So we have to realized that more than one million
25 people will suffer the radical scarcity of food for

2 the next five months until the next harvest. But
3 actually, in Councilman Eugene's Resolution, there is
4 no request for admission of new Haitians from Haiti
5 as if hundreds of thousands were rushing to our
6 shores, as in the days of the Cuban Crisis in the
7 1960s. We are pleading for those already here while
8 essentially peaceful hardworking individuals. Let me
9 bring to your attention that all this talk about
10 massive Haitian deportations came to the forefront
11 because of a very recent development that has erupted
12 in California. In the course of the year-of this
13 year, some 5,000 Haitians have unexpectedly entered
14 the United States borders of San Diego, California.
15 They were coming from Brazil. You might like to know
16 that after the 10/30 (sic) devastating earthquake,
17 Brazil accepted some 60,000 Haitians because in those
18 days, the economy of that nation was prosperous, and
19 a labor force was needed for field work, but also
20 for the construction of a vast Aerodrome in the
21 capital. Unfortunately, the political and economic
22 conditions of that country that seriously
23 deteriorated over the past six years. The foreign
24 labor force is no longer an emergency. The Haitian
25 immigrants in Brazil have had a hard time finding

2 jobs. They're also experience discrimination. Hence
3 a small portion of these unfortunate immigrants, some
4 5,000, have undertaken a long perilous journey to 11
5 countries, be it Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica,
6 Honduras, Mexico and—and Peru. They had to cross
7 the—the mountains of Peru where they are wanted
8 animals. So, they reach the entry doors of
9 California. We know that a number of them perished
10 in the journey. Pastors have charged them enormous
11 fees. For some, the journey mostly on foot lasted
12 more than six months. Less than 2,000 new entrants
13 who actually have parents here are the ones causing
14 all that panic in official circles. There will
15 probably be a much softer outcry if they were offered
16 a different race, but let us not go into this. In
17 this context, Councilman Eugene is simply saying,
18 number one, those Haitians who benefitted from the
19 TPS six years ago, and they have proven themselves to
20 be peaceful individuals, should be allowed to stay.
21 There be a standard of permits to stay and make it
22 permanent, as it has been the case for other groups
23 in the past. Why make the past more arduous to a
24 group whose distress is so acute? Secondly, those
25 who have managed to make it from Brazil through such

2 overwhelming hardships, should not be deported
3 indiscriminately. Other measures can be devised to
4 stop that irregular flow of new entrants, but some
5 degree of compassion is very much called for. In
6 these days when international relationships are too
7 frequently distorted by harshness, injustice and
8 brutality, the United States is perfectly capable of
9 showing some degree of justice, fair play and
10 nobility, and stand tall as a promoter of humanity in
11 its dealing with a harmless, poor, friendly
12 neighboring nation particularly struck by natural
13 disasters and a thousand other historical factors.

14 So let me close with a quotation from the
15 book of Proverbs where we see the Queen Mother's
16 advice to her son the king. "Speak up for people who
17 cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of
18 those who are helpless. Protect the rights of the
19 poor and needy." God bless you.

20 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you, Bishop
21 for being with us today, for your words, and really
22 for the whole panel who came and testified today, we
23 heard from faith leaders. We heard from our youth.
24 We heard from organizations that have been fighting
25 the good fight, and at this time I'll just ask to see

2 if there is anybody else that wants to speak on
3 either of these Resos before we—would you like to?
4 Okay. Can we just get you to fill out a form really
5 quick, and we'll get you up there, and then soon
6 right after we hear from our—our final New Yorker, we
7 want to take a vote on this, and we'll invite our
8 Council Members to give their reflections about these
9 resolutions, and at this very critical time. And—and
10 we'll end with my—we'll end with my vote, and my
11 final words. [background comments, pause] Thank you
12 so much. The New York Immigration Coalition, the
13 floor is yours.

14 Thank you so much, Chairman Menchaca. So
15 good morning to you all. On behalf of the New York
16 Immigration Coalition I want to thank the Committee
17 and Chairman Menchaca for introducing this
18 resolution. In particular I'd like to extend—can say
19 appreciation and gratitude to Council Member Mathieu
20 for the introduction of the resolution itself and for
21 really bringing this issues to the fore. It's
22 something that is very near to the—the work of New
23 York Immigration Coalition, and we feel very strongly
24 about the issue. My name is Savinia (sic) and I
25 serve as the Director—excuse me—the Manger of

2 Community Engagement for NYIC. We are umbrella
3 organization particularly focused on policy and
4 advocacy with nearly 200 different member
5 organizations across New York State and our aim, our
6 mission, as some of you may know, is to really to
7 ensure a fair and more just society that really truly
8 values the contributions of immigrants and their
9 families. A lot of testimony has been offered this
10 morning so I won't go into the details of what we
11 already know, but last September, as we know, Jay
12 Johnson's Administration basically announced their
13 intention to resume deportation of Haitians, and in
14 respect to this announcement, the Executive Director
15 of NYIC, Steve Choi offered the following statement:
16 We are especially disappointed that that is
17 announcement comes at the end of a week where the
18 U.S. starts to position itself as a global leader in
19 efforts to assist the millions of displaced people
20 around the globe today. During Monday's first ever
21 United Nations Summit on refugees and migrants, and
22 again on Tuesday, during President Obama's own
23 convening on the issue, he asserted the U.S.
24 commitment to protecting the world's most vulnerable
25 population who are fleeing civil strife and natural

2 disasters, and yet his administration's actions
3 directly contradict is rhetoric. So I come to you
4 today really to amplify the importance of the passage
5 of this resolution, which in—in our mind is a
6 reaffirmation of this nation's need to respond
7 humanely to Haiti's humanitarian crisis particularly
8 in light of the catastrophic hurricane and against
9 the backdrop of the 2010 earthquake that really
10 decimated Haitian infrastructure. Life in Haiti, as
11 we've received testimony about has been unimaginably
12 difficult since the 2010 earthquake despite the
13 billions of dollars spent by the international
14 community. Notably and I think this is really
15 important we can acknowledge that remittances sent by
16 Haitians from the U.S. have been absolutely critical
17 in preventing the complete collapse—excuse me—of
18 Haitian households and the economy. And I think it's
19 important to really state that clearly because this
20 speaks to the need to the passage of this resolution
21 that would enable Haitian nationals to continue
22 providing for and protecting their families back
23 home. According to researchers from the—the
24 Migration Policy Institute, money sent to Haitian
25 relatives in the U.S. amounts to over a billion

2 dollars annually. These are significant funds of
3 transfers of money that is equal to no less than 20%
4 of the Haitian government's budget. This is why
5 Resolution 1290's call for a TPS program is both
6 justified and essential. A new TPS designation and a
7 cessation of deportation will and our expectations
8 prevents the worsening of conditions in Haiti while
9 also protecting nationals here, legal nationals to
10 continue supporting their families. And, as I said
11 earlier, this is particularly important for Haiti's
12 rebuilding efforts as many on the island depend
13 heavily on the net reserve. Just want to say a few
14 more things. The passage of 1290 will also be a
15 clear declaration of our city's prioritization of the
16 preservation of the family unit, particularly in
17 calling for what we would hope would be the relief
18 that Haitian nationals currently in innovation
19 detention. Some of our partners who are members of
20 the Black Immigration Engagement Initiative, BIEI,
21 which was recently announced last May by NYC and its
22 partners, have informed us of not only deteriorating
23 conditions of Haitians, but of the fact that we have
24 some over 4,000 Haitians right now sitting in
25 detention in this country, and those numbers were as

2 of a few weeks ago. And so it's deplorable that (1)
3 they're sitting in detention unable to provide for
4 their families, but they're often confined to
5 deplorable conditions in these detentions facilities
6 and I think some of us may be aware of some of the
7 exposes that have been released about the conditions
8 that people are current in detention across the
9 country. In the wake of Hurricane Matthew's
10 destruction we can send a strong message of
11 solidarity to all Haitians by allowing the
12 unification of those in detention with their
13 families. And I think this is not just an issue of
14 humanitarianism, but there's actually a cost saving
15 benefit to the American population. American
16 taxpayers would benefit in allowing detained
17 immigrants to stay with their families. As we all
18 know, detention is a very costly institution.
19 According to 2011 analysis by the ACLU, U.S.
20 Immigration detention centers often expose detainees
21 to brutal and inhumane conditions of confinement
22 often at a massive costs to American taxpayers.
23 Passage of Resolution 1290 will send a strong message
24 to New York and to other states across the nation,
25 but we have a mission to promote immigration policies

2 that do not criminalize people. I want them to seek
3 better lives for themselves and their families. The
4 position to support Haiti is not only humane, it is
5 prudent financially and otherwise. In this
6 increasingly globalized world we feel it necessary
7 that our government should employ immigration
8 policies that strengthen, not weaken our neighbors,
9 right and neighbors in-around the region. Our
10 government must avoid undertaking any actions that
11 further destabilize Haiti or result in an inflow of
12 greater numbers of refugees into the U.S., and I know
13 that this is an issue about the particular concern,
14 right, to our administration, and our allies in the
15 immigration world that we want to do all that we can
16 to stem the flow and the tide of immigrants and
17 refugees, and those that are here, we need to do all
18 that we can to protect them and make their lives
19 decent. So, finally, let me just say that I think we
20 can all agree that Haitians are very proud people.
21 They've made America their home as that is so in
22 other immigrants, and they have made many important
23 contributions to our nation. This is not something I
24 really need to state. We know this. I commend
25 Council Member Eugene for introducing 1290, which in-

2 in our mind really affirms the highest ideals of
3 humanitarianism and of solidarity. Thank you. In
4 speaking on the issue of sanctuaries, I think—I just
5 want to say briefly that I think especially at NYIC
6 we absolutely support efforts to—to keep New York
7 State a sanctuary state, and we want to work in
8 collaboration with the Mayor across the city to do
9 so. This is something that I think really goes hand-
10 in-hand with Resolution 1290. It's important that we
11 communicate and especially New York State as home to
12 the largest immigrant population, home to the largest
13 Black immigrant population, that we set the model for
14 what it means to really treat refugees with dignity.
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you and
17 before—before our next—our next testimony is given,
18 I'm going to open up the vote for Council Member Koo
19 who will be chairing his committee in a few minutes.
20 If I can open up the roll call for—for him.

21 CLERK: William Martin Committee Clerk
22 roll call vote Committee on Immigration. Two resos,
23 Council Member Koo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on both.

2 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you for
3 that, and we'll hear Mr. Albert St. John, the Black
4 Alliance for Just Immigration.

5 ABERTINE GENE: Yes, my name is Abertine
6 Gene, a Haitian American organizing with BAJI, Black
7 Alliance for Just Immigration. I'd like to thank
8 Council Member Eugene for pushing forth Resolution
9 1290. As a Haitian American I'm very proud of the
10 work that you've been doing with our community, and
11 as we all know, I think we can all agree that Haiti
12 is not in a condition to absorb tens of thousands of
13 people that have TPS currently. The—the country
14 cannot—it would be a shock to the system. Forgive
15 me. I have no written testimony. So I'm speaking
16 completely off the cuff. So—so the country right
17 now, as we know, since the earthquake has been going
18 through slow recovery has been experiencing natural
19 disasters ever since, and also the disaster known as
20 the Cholera Epidemic as well. So, sending back all
21 these people that wants enrollment can create a
22 further situation that might cause even—even a
23 greater catastrophe further down the road, and we
24 will be perpetually dealing with this. So, for those
25 that don't—that think that it is not feasible to

2 allow people with TPS to stay at the moment, by
3 deporting them will only lead even greater numbers of
4 people coming to our shores later on as we further
5 destabilize the country. Also, I want to speak very
6 briefly about the Sanctuary Cities Resolution as
7 well. One thing that we know as black immigrants is
8 that even though only 5% of all undocumented
9 immigrants in the United States are black. They make
10 up about 20% of criminal deportations. Part of this
11 reason is because of the over-policing of our
12 communities. Particularly here in New York City
13 we're hearing these stories about people getting
14 deported after raids are done by NYPD finding that
15 there isn't—there aren't any drugs in some situations
16 in—in these houses because they—they're—they tip off
17 ICE. We know that officially the NYPD is not working
18 with ICE. However, we are hearing stories that
19 because of over-policing and—and the war on drugs,
20 people are, in fact, being—having their homes raided
21 by ICE. So they've moved their operations form
22 places like Rikers Island, and work in conjunction
23 directly with the NYPD to going directly to people's
24 homes. So, I think that we should look at certain
25 policing policies that we have such as Broken

2 Windows, and these things that while crime is falling
3 in the city, over-policing causes us to arrest people
4 for low level offenses. One example would be the
5 case of Kemar Thompson, who in the day—the day after
6 Trump's election, I went to his bond hearing to—to
7 hear that this man who came from Jamaica at three
8 years old was going to be deported for a string of
9 misdemeanors that he committed in his youth. So I
10 think that we need to also look at the way our
11 policing tactics are being carried out as well in the
12 city, and I think that we need to do more
13 investigations on—and—and follow up for reports of
14 ICE deportations. Any time we hear of ICE raids in
15 our city, we need police oversight to look into that
16 and—and—and find out if they are, in fact, working in
17 conjunction with ICE. That's my testimony. Thank
18 you.

19 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you so much
20 for both of your testimony on both of the
21 resolutions. The work that we—we do, on the ground
22 is not only incredibly important for one community,
23 but like both of you are—are signaling. This is a
24 larger conversation rather—rather than just this one
25 incident in Haiti. This is about connecting to our

2 families in neighborhoods, in our—in our city, and
3 everything that was discussed from our NYPD work that
4 we have to do that has—affects an immigrant community
5 to the economic arguments that we're going to have to
6 start making in a more clear way. This is—this is
7 exactly what we need to do, and—and so with that, I
8 want to thank you for coming to day, and—and speaking
9 on these Resos and we're going to move to a vote, and
10 I want to call the vote, and allow for our Council
11 Members on the committee to—to give some—some kind of
12 final—final remarks on the Resos as—as they—as they
13 vote. So we'll start with Council Member Dromm.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
15 much, Mr. Chair, and thank you for your passion and
16 commitment on this issue, and all issues regarding
17 our immigrant communities. You have been a true
18 leader, and I think in the words of the Bishop, you
19 speak up for the people who cannot speak for
20 themselves, and you protect the rights of those who
21 are helpless, and you protect the rights of the poor
22 and the needy and that is truly commendable. I'd
23 also like to thank Council Member Mathieu Eugene for
24 being a strong voice for the Haitian community. He's
25 been there. I remember going to Israel with him in

2 2010, and he visited survivors in hospitals from the
3 earthquake in 2010 over there in Israel and has been
4 a constant and continuous voice for justice for the
5 Haitian people. And I heard the testimony this
6 morning of Alden Nesbitt as well, and prior to being
7 elected to the City Council, I was a New York City
8 public school teacher for 25 years. And I remember
9 how Caribbean teachers were recruited to come to this
10 country specifically to New York City because we
11 didn't have enough teachers, and they came to this
12 country to help this county, to help this city to
13 educate its children, and we owe them, we owe
14 protected status now, especially for their families
15 here in the United States. So I want to thank Mr.
16 Nesbitt for reminding us of that commitment that
17 their families made to our country. And I also want
18 to speak in support of the resolution affirming New
19 York City as a sanctuary city. We as a city must
20 resist Donald Trump's racist, xenophobic,
21 Islamophobic, misogynistic, homophobic agenda in
22 everyway humanly possible. And we must resist any
23 attempt to eliminate DACA, DAFA, or any other
24 executive orders, which were used to help our
25 immigrant communities. We must join other cities

2 around this country like San Francisco, who I believe
3 last week passed a similar resolution declaring San
4 Francisco as sanctuary city, and recommitting their
5 resources to their immigrant communities as well.
6 And just last week, Chair Menchaca, as you know, we
7 were discussing how to inform and work with our
8 immigrant communities about preparing for the
9 eventuality of this presidency. And it's frightening
10 to think that we need to tell people to prepare in
11 ways that if your father doesn't come home at night,
12 what will the family do if they lose their
13 breadwinner. If your brother or sister doesn't show
14 up at home, what will we do? What will the families
15 do, and who will they turn to. Although I don't want
16 to create fear in the hearts of people, these
17 discussions are reality in our homes, and these fears
18 are real. So, you know, I recently went to PS 222 in
19 Jackson Heights prior to, actually prior to the
20 election, and that morning the principal had
21 announced that they were going to get a visit from
22 Council Member Daniel Dromm, myself. And a little
23 boy ran into the principal's office after the
24 announcement was made, and said Mr. Marrera (sic),
25 Ms. Marrera come to second grade. You know, second

2 graders are seven years old. He said a little girl
3 is crying. A little girl is crying, and so when Ms.
4 Marrera went up to the second grade class, she saw
5 the little girl in the corner of the classroom crying
6 because she misheard my name and the name of Donald
7 Trump, and she was afraid that she was going to be
8 deported. And the principal asked me to go in and--
9 and to show her my face, and say that I'm not Donald
10 Trump, but imagine that this fear is in the heart of
11 a seven-year-old child. So we've held numerous
12 rallies, as have others around the city in Jackson
13 Heights, Elmhurst, in my district, and we must
14 continue to organize, and this resolution reaffirming
15 our commitment as a sanctuary city is just another
16 step in that direction. And so we must do all that
17 we can to resist Donald Trump's inhumane train--
18 treatment of any human being, and with that, I want
19 to vote yes on both resolutions here today. Thank
20 you very, very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you, Council
22 Member Dromm.

23 CLERK: Council Member Eugene.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
25 much. Let me one more time thank all the speakers.

2 Thank you very much for your advocacy, for your
3 efforts also to protect the immigrant people, and
4 thank you for voting on this very important
5 resolution, and to my colleagues and thank you very
6 much for your support. And Mr. Chair, thank you very
7 much. With that, I vote—I vote aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you, Council
9 Member Mathieu Eugene, and we have also been joined
10 by our brother in Brooklyn, Council Member Jumaane
11 Williams. You can have a moment to—to say a few
12 words about these resolutions before us today.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you so
14 much, Mr. Chair and I want to thank Council Member
15 Eugene, and the Speaker for their resolution today.
16 I think it's critically important. Council Member
17 Eugene and I together actually represent the most
18 Haitians outside of Haiti, and we believe also
19 Florida, which makes this resolution particularly
20 sensitive to us. I am a first generation
21 Brooklynite. Both of my parents are immigrants,
22 which makes both of these resolutions very important
23 to me. I didn't realize until several years ago that
24 one of my brothers was undocumented for quite some
25 time. There was a story. I got pulled over at one

2 point, and I'm not going to say what I was doing,
3 but I got pulled over and I remember my brother
4 driving past me, and he didn't stop, and for years I
5 couldn't understand why he didn't stop and wait for
6 me until the police do what they have to do. And it
7 came—turned out that he was undocumented, and afraid
8 that he must not have that interaction with police,
9 and he was born in Grenada. Very quickly after, he
10 was—he spent most of his time in Canada, and then
11 came here. And if he was deported he have gone back
12 Grenada, a country he didn't even know, and so it's
13 very disturbing to me. I hope Donald Trump is a
14 failure as a president. I can't believe anyone else
15 would say anything besides him having to fail unless
16 he changes his policies because the policies he
17 campaigned on would cause America to fail if he
18 succeeded. So I'm very proud that we have these two
19 pieces of legislation before us today, and I'm proud
20 of this body. Hopefully we'll be voting on, and this
21 committee for having this hearing, and the leadership
22 that this chair has been showing on the immigration
23 issues. My hope is for those who are listening that
24 our Caribbean brothers and sisters will catch up to
25 our Latino brothers and sisters, and their activism

2 around immigration. We, too, have many of the
3 similar problems, but our voice is not as loud as it
4 should be on this conversation. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you, Council
6 Member Mathieu—I mean Jumaane Williams, and again I
7 also want to say thank you to Council Member Mathieu
8 Eugene for bringing this resolution and the
9 leadership that you took to make sure that this got
10 heard, and passed and voted on today. [pause]

11 CLERK: Chair Menchaca.

12 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you. So
13 before I give my vote, I want to say some final
14 parting words to everybody here today. What—what we
15 heard today from all the folks that testified, and I
16 said this earlier, but it's important to note the
17 range of folks that came out today from our youth,
18 and some youthful voice, the faith leaders, the
19 organizations that have been working on the ground
20 for a long time they represent wisdom, they represent
21 vision, and they represent our future as we embark on
22 something that's going to be very difficult times for
23 us as a city. But it is our right as a city to fight
24 against, and to protect our residents, and it is not
25 only our right to do it, it's the right thing to do.

2 This is a humane conversation. This is about
3 humanity, but this is about our systems as well, our
4 institutions, the fabric of our institutions that
5 keep our communities strong. This is about our
6 families. This is about our schools, and you keep
7 hearing over and over again that this ripple effects
8 into every part of our existence as New Yorkers.
9 This is also a national conversation. The things we
10 do here in New York City have ripple effects across
11 the state and across the country. People are looking
12 to us for leadership and you're seeing it here today.
13 This Immigration Committee, the City Council and this
14 admin-administration are committed to our people. We
15 don't need to hear this once or twice. We need to
16 hear this everyday, and so I hope that you can take
17 this message beyond this room here today, beyond this
18 action here today, and talk about what you heard, and
19 talk about what you heard, and talk about your truth.
20 This is how we're going to attack the fear that we're
21 hearing and feeling in our schools, in our streets,
22 in our churches, in our homes. We do—we do not want
23 to create more fear. We are already met with fear,
24 and the way we—we fight fear is with love. These
25 resolutions that we're—that we're hearing today, and

2 the things that you're going to hear from here on out
3 form the City Council are about love. This is about
4 love for each other. This is about love for our
5 families. This is about love for our city. I also
6 want to just give a shout-out to Sunset Park. Sunset
7 Park today for me is a place of-of sanctuary. It's a
8 sanctuary neighborhood, and continues to organize
9 itself with our partners. One of the stories I want
10 to share our-our neighborhoods surrounding Sunset
11 Park have come with open hearts and open minds, and
12 they are organizing together. I was at an organizing
13 meeting with Council Member Brad Lander at one of the
14 synagogues in Park Slope, and in those sessions we
15 were able to connect families with resources.
16 Resources like legal-legal expertise, and-and
17 financial resources to pay for applicants who are
18 trying to become citizens that can't get that \$700 to
19 pay for their citizenship. There are things that are
20 happening in the midst of this darkness and the fog
21 that we're in right. There are beautiful things
22 happening. Let us lift those voices. Let us lift
23 those stories and share them with people because that
24 might activate a heart and mind that is ready to do
25 something. That is what's happening in Brooklyn, in

2 Sunset Park and Park Slope. That is what's happening
3 in Queens in the Bronx in Manhattan and Staten
4 Island. Let us share this with the world so that
5 others can be activated. We heard two resos, one
6 that was a natural disaster, and our response to it,
7 and one a political disaster that we're responding
8 to. These disasters are not different in so many
9 ways. They require our fullest attention, and we
10 have the attention here today. And finally, I want
11 to lift some of the words that were said today by
12 some of our people who—our—our folks that testified
13 today. Yes, we are organized, and yes we learn about
14 our rights as people, and we will act with prudence
15 and wisdom and empathy for everyone, and with that, I
16 vote aye on both of these resolutions, and I can't
17 wait to see them in the City Council Stated floor
18 later this week to pass them in full. Thank you so
19 much for your time today, and let's [speaking
20 Spanish] Thank you so much.

21 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
22 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions
23 both items have been adopted by the committee. Thank
24 you.

1 COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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2 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you for
3 that, and this meeting is now adjourned. [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date December 22, 2015