

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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May 28, 2020
Start: 10:34 AM
Recess: 10:40 AM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING

B E F O R E: CARLOS MENCHACA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Margaret S. Chin
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Francisco P. Moya

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

2 SERGEANT HOPE: Good morning. Welcome to
3 the Committee on Immigration. All members and staff,
4 please turn on your video and place your electronic
5 devices to silence. Chair, whenever you're ready to
6 begin. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON CARLOS MENCHACA: Thank you,
8 Sergeant Hope, and Buenos dias everyone. My name is
9 Carlos Menchaca and the Chair of the New York City's
10 Council Committee on Immigration. Welcome to today's
11 Committee vote on Proposed Introduction No. 1836-A
12 sponsored by Council Member and Immigration Committee
13 member Francisco Moya from Queens relation to
14 replacing the term immigrant alien with non-citizen.
15 I want to thank the members of the committee who are
16 here today Council Member Chin, Council Member Dromm,
17 Council Member Eugene and Council Member Moya. New
18 York City is a city of immigrants. More that 3.2
19 million of our residents hail from all over the
20 globe, and they call this city our great city of New
21 York home. As the Immigration Committee, we
22 understand that the wellbeing of immigrant New
23 Yorkers is interwoven with the wellbeing of all New
24 Yorkers. With this in mind we are committed to the
25 flourishing and the thriving of that wellbeing.

2 Today, the Committee will be voting on a bill that
3 would make us the first city in the nation to remove
4 hateful anti-immigrant language from our city laws,
5 rules, documents and materials, and that makes me
6 feel so proud to be a New Yorker. The term alien is
7 dehumanizing and reinforces discriminatory attitudes—
8 discriminatory attitudes toward immigrants. The fact
9 that this term remains in many city laws and rules
10 and other materials conflicts with the values that we
11 seek to uphold. As the City Council we have sought
12 to pass legislation that promotes immigrant inclusion
13 and integration so that all our families can thrive
14 and we work hand-in-hand with the Administration to
15 implement all of these policies. I hope other
16 jurisdictions learn from our example and that even in
17 the midst of a crisis like the one that we're in
18 right now you can continue to shape a better future
19 for everyone. I want to thank the staff who have
20 helped prepare this vote in the committee, Committee
21 Counsel Herboni Aruza (sp?), Committee Counsel/Policy
22 Analyst Elizabeth Cronk, Finance Analyst Florentine
23 Cabor, and my staff—Chief of Staff Lorena Lucero;
24 Legislative Director Cesar Vargas, and Communications

2 Director Tony Cherito. I'd like to call on Council
3 Member Moya and prime sponsor of this bill to speak.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank you so much
5 Chair Menchaca, and thank you to my colleagues. I
6 know Chair, you have been truly a leader in this
7 fight, and I'm just very grateful that I have the
8 opportunity to be here with all of you today to
9 really talk about an issue that is going to have
10 great impact on our most vulnerable community right
11 now and that is the undocumented community. The word
12 illegal immigrant and alien have no place in our
13 city—in our city's guiding documents or social
14 discourse today. An undocumented immigrant is no more
15 illegal than a J-walker. Both violated a
16 misdemeanor, but only one carries the infraction
17 around. Their bated and their loaded words used to
18 dehumanize the people that they describe. It's time
19 to retire them, and this bill Intro 1836 would
20 replaced the term 'alien' with non-citizen wherever
21 it refers to non-citizens in the City Charter and
22 Administrative Code, and would bar the city from
23 using the term 'alien' 'illegal alien' or 'illegal
24 immigrant in laws, documents or materials unless
25 referencing a federal law or program. Word matter and

2 the language we choose to use has power and it has
3 consequences. It's time as we as a city use our
4 language to acknowledge people as people rather than
5 to dehumanize them and divide us. I'm very grateful
6 for the support from our Chair, but I also want to
7 thank his staff who worked incredibly hard to make
8 this happen. I also want to thank my staff Megan
9 Chadio (sic) and Ryan Sit and, too, the Speaker and
10 Jason Goldman. Thank you for this opportunity. Thank
11 you, Chair, and I turn it back to you.

12 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank...thank you,
13 Council Member Moya for just the work that you did on
14 this...on this bill, and your bill is going to create a
15 really great opportunity for us to take this
16 nationwide, and it came from...from you and the
17 community that you serve, and I know that your
18 community is incredibly impacted right now, and so I
19 want to say thank you to all the work that you and
20 your staff are doing on the ground to support our
21 community especially our immigrant community.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank you, Chair.

23 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you. So, I
24 want to call the clerk now to do the roll call for
25 the vote.

1 COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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2 CLERK: Good morning. William Martin,
3 Committee Clerk roll call vote Committee on
4 Immigration. Introduction 1836-A. Chair Menchanca.

5 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Eugene.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Chin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote and please
10 add me onto the bill, and thank you Council Member
11 Moya for your leadership.

12 CLERK: Dromm.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I Congratulate
14 Council Member Moya, and um, say that language
15 counts. It's important that we use the right language
16 when describing people. Thank you very much. I vote
17 aye.

18 CLERK: Moya.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
21 affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions,
22 Introduction 1836-A has been adopted by the
23 committee. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you, thank
25 you Clerk for that vote and thank you to the

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2 colleagues on this...on this vote today, unanimous
3 support. We'll be voting on this later today in the
4 Stated. Thank you to this committee for your hard
5 work and our committee work continues, and for now,
6 we're adjourned. Thank you. [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 June 8, 2020