

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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APRIL 29, 2021
Start: 10:05 A.M.
Recess: 10:12 A.M.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING VIRTUAL ROOM 1

B E F O R E: CHAIR CARLOS MENCHACA

COUNCIL MEMBERS: CARLOS MENCHACA
PETER KOO
MARGARET S. CHIN
DANIEL DROMM
OSWALD FELIZ
FRANCISCO MOYA
SELVENA N. BROOKS-POWERS
MATHIEU EUGENE

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

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3 SGT. LEONARDO: PC recording under way.

4 SGT. BRADLEY: Cloud recording is up.

5 MALE VOICE: Back up is rolling.

6 SGT. BRADLEY: Sergeant Leonardo, you may
7 begin.

8 SGT. LEONARDO: Good morning, and welcome
9 to the remote New York City Council hearing for the
10 Committee on Immigration. At this time, we ask that
11 all Council Members and staff turn on their video for
12 verification purposes. To minimize disruption,
13 please turn all cell phones and electronic devices to
14 silent or vibrate. Thank you. Mr. Chair. We are
15 ready to begin.

16 CHAIR MENCHACA: Thank you, and Buenos
17 Dias everyone. I'm Carlos Menchaca, Chair of the
18 Immigration Committee, and I woke up with some severe
19 allergies. I hope you are all well and taking care
20 of yourself, your families, and your neighbors. I
21 want to call this hearing to order. I want to
22 acknowledge that we've have also been joined by
23 Council Koo, Council Member Dromm, Council Member
24 Chin, Council Member Feliz. Welcome, and Council
25 Member Moya. We're really excited today to be here.

2 The Committee on Immigration will be holding a second
3 hearing and a vote on Resolution Number 1229,
4 sponsored by my colleague, Council Member Koo. The
5 Resolution calls on the United States Congress to
6 pass and the President to sign the Adoptee
7 Citizenship Act of 2021 in order to secure US
8 citizenship of internationally adopted children who
9 are now adults or aging into adulthood. The right to
10 citizenship is powerful. It grants the privilege of
11 voting and running for office, but it also provides
12 permanent protection from deportation and the freedom
13 to travel within and outside of the United States.
14 Citizenship allows individuals full access to this
15 nation's safety net, the benefits without fear of
16 adverse immigration consequences. The cruel adoption
17 loop hold in this immigration law is cruel. You can
18 be brought to the United States as a child, only to
19 find out later that you are not guaranteed the rights
20 of citizenship. Federal law must be update
21 immediately so that we can ensure that this does not
22 happen again to any other person. So, I want to
23 thank Council Member Koo for his leadership on this
24 issue. It is critical that our immigration laws work
25 for everyone, including adoptees. I want to thank

2 the staff for the work on this, for bringing this
3 Legislation to its (inaudible) and to today's vote.
4 This includes Immigration Committee staff, Committee
5 Counsel Harbani Ahuja; Policy Analyst Elizabeth
6 Kronk, and my staff as well, Chief of Staff
7 Lauren Arocero (SP?) and Legislative and
8 Communication Director Tony Churito (SP?). With
9 that, I want to hand it over to Council Member Koo
10 for remarks. Oh, and we've also been joined by
11 Council Member Brooks-Powers. Buenos Dias. Council
12 Member Koo, it's all yours.

13 CM KOO: Thank you. Thank you, Chair for
14 hearing my Resolution today, Resolution 1229. This
15 Resolution calls on the Federal Government to close a
16 loop hold in the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 which
17 prevents in the internationally adopted children from
18 receiving US citizenship despite being legally
19 adopted by US citizens. Imagine spending 99% of your
20 time as an American only to have your country turn
21 its back on you because of missing paperwork. The
22 Child Citizenship Act of 2000 was supposed to allowed
23 foreign-born children of US citizens to acquire
24 citizenship. Unfortunately, a loop hold in the end,
25 left thousands of adoptees from countries all over

2 the world because they were 18 years old by the time
3 the law when into effect. Thousands of
4 internationally adoptees have spent nearly their
5 entire lives in America without citizenship rights,
6 and many, actually, have no idea they aren't really
7 citizens. We finally, have an Administration that is
8 sympathetic to the lives of immigrants. Now, is the
9 time to right this wrong and give the international
10 adoptees the American citizenship they deserve.
11 Thank you Chair for holding this hearing. I urge my
12 colleagues to support this Resolution. Thank you.

13 CHAIR MENCHACA: Thank you, Council
14 Member Koo. I will now hand it over to staff and the
15 clerk to do roll call.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Excuse
17 me, good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk,
18 roll call vote Committee on Immigration, Resolution
19 1229, Chair Menchaca.

20 CHAIR MENCHACA: I vote Aye.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
22 Eugene.

23 CM EUGENE: I vote Aye.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
25 you. Chin.

2 CM CHIN: I vote Aye.

3 LEGISLATIVE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Dromm.

4 CM DROMM: Aye.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

6 CM MOYA: I vote Aye.

7 LEGISLATIVE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

8 Brooks-Powers.

9 CM BROOKS-POWERS: I vote Aye.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Feliz.

11 CM FELIZ: I vote yes and thank you so
12 much for working on this Resolution. Well-needed
13 today.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
15 of seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
16 and no abstentions. Resolution 1229 has been adopted
17 by the Committee and Chair Menchaca, that is a full
18 Committee.

19 CHAIR MENCHACA: Beautiful, and a full
20 Committee it is. I want to welcome the new blood
21 onto the Committee. This is a very vibrant
22 community, and important one that really lifts the
23 voices of so man of our New Yorkers that don't have
24 the power to vote for us, to get in here, but they do
25 have the power and voice of their story, and that's

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2 what comes to the Council through this Committee, so
3 thank you, and with that, I think we're done, and
4 we'll see you as stated.

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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 May 30, 2021