



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 117

By Council Members Williams, Levine, Mendez and Rosenthal

A Local Law in relation to creating an interagency task force to be charged with studying the obstacles faced by children of incarcerated parents, from arrest to reunification.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. a. There shall be an interagency task force to study the obstacles faced by children of incarcerated parents, from arrest to reunification.

b. Such task force shall consist of the commissioner of the administration for children's services, the commissioner of the department of corrections, and the commissioner of the police department, or the respective designee of such commissioners. The mayor shall appoint two additional members with relevant expertise in the area of children of incarcerated parents. The speaker of the city council shall appoint four additional members with relevant expertise in the area of children of incarcerated parents.

c. The task force shall invite the New York state office of children and family services, the New York state department of corrections, and representatives of any other relevant state agency or state elected official, as identified by the task force, to participate in the development of the task force report pursuant to subdivision g of this section.

d. Such task force shall serve for a term of one year. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

e. All members of such task force shall serve without compensation, except that each member shall be allowed actual and necessary expenses to be audited in the same manner as other city expenses.

f. No member of the task force shall be removed except for cause and upon notice and hearing by the

appropriate appointing official.

g. The commissioner of the department of corrections shall serve as the chair of such task force and shall convene the first meeting of such task force within ninety days after the effective date of the local law that added this section. Such task force shall issue and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the mayor and the speaker of the city council no later than twelve months after the effective date of the local law that added this section. Such report shall include recommendations in the following areas including, but not limited to:

- i. Arrest protocols for custodial parents;
- ii. Child-centered visitations and facilities at incarceration facilities;
- iii. Mental health supports and services for children of incarcerated parents; and
- iv. Support services for incarcerated parents and their children upon reentry.

h. The task force shall terminate upon the issuance of its final report.

§2. This local law shall take effect immediately.

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