



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 33

Resolution calling upon the Legislature of the State of New York to amend New York State Public Officers Law to require that the hiring of police officers to the New York City Police Department be restricted to New York City residents.

By Council Members Foster, Barron, Sanders Jr., Vann, Brewer, Clarke, Jennings, Koppell, Lopez, Perkins, Quinn, Seabrook, Sears, Stewart, Jackson and James

Whereas, New York State Public Officers Law currently allows New York City police officers to reside in certain counties outside of New York City, pursuant to section 3, subdivision 2, of that law; and

Whereas, The Legislature of the State of New York has the authority to pass a law requiring that the hiring of police officers be restricted to the residents of New York City; and

Whereas, It is common sense and right that New York City should police itself with its own residents; and

Whereas, There has been an historic problem in New York City with a police force that does not represent the population that it polices, because such a large proportion of officers are non-residents of New York City; and

Whereas, Since such a large proportion of the New York City police force is made up of non-residents, there has historically been a lack of police understanding and sensitivity to the cultural, ethnic, racial and religious diversities of New York City, and further, such imbalance has often resulted in mistrust, tension, and, at times, violence; and

Whereas, New York City residents who are hired to protect New York City are arguably more familiar and have a greater stake in protecting the City in which they live, and further, this familiarity and greater stake can ease the mistrust and tension, and potentially reduce the incidents of violence and police brutality; and

Whereas, There ought to be a major affirmative hiring plan to recruit police officers from the residents of New York City not just to take the police officer entrance exam, but also to offer guidance through the ensuing application process; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the Legislature of the State of New York to amend New York State Public Officers Law to require that the hiring of police officers to the New York City Police Department be restricted to New York City residents.