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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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April 28, 2025

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Hon. Mayor Adams:

At its Full Board meeting on April 17, 2025, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

Resolution Affirming and Strengthening New York City as a welcoming city for Immigrants

WHEREAS

1. Dating back nearly four decades, New York City has adopted policies that ensure all residents—regardless of immigration status—can safely access services, resources, and protections without fear of deportation, surveillance, or retaliation [1,2,3]; and
2. Protections in local law, including Local Laws 58, 59, 185, 226, and 228, establish critical guardrails limiting the involvement of city agencies, including the New York Police Department (NYPD) and the Department of Corrections (DOC), in federal immigration enforcement, and uphold the city's commitment to immigrant rights. These laws are commonly referenced as Sanctuary Laws. [1-5]; and
3. These protections have been supported across decades of city leadership and reaffirmed by community leaders, legal scholars, public safety experts, and faith-based organizations as essential to ensuring fairness, safety, and equal protection for all [5-8]; and

4. Statements and actions by the Mayoral administration—including the issuance of an executive order by First Deputy Mayor Randy Mastro authorizing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to operate on Rikers Island—have raised serious legal and ethical concerns and may conflict with Local Laws 58, 59, 228, and other established Sanctuary Laws [9-12]; and
5. The Mayor’s proposals threaten to undermine these laws and compromise the trust that immigrant communities have placed in city government as well as perpetuate fear campaigns and promote denials of due process [12-15]; and
6. Legal guidance from the New York State Attorney General affirms that localities are under no obligation to carry out federal immigration enforcement and provides clear model policies to uphold community trust and public safety [4]; and
7. Community-based organizations and advocacy groups have long emphasized the importance of funding Know Your Rights (KYR) education, language access programs, legal services, and family preparedness resources to ensure immigrant New Yorkers can fully exercise their rights, live with dignity, protect their families, and prepare for uncertainty [16-21], however, the current approach is currently fragmented and underfunded, exacerbating the gap between the supply and demand for KYR education and legal workshops; and
8. Community Board 2 Manhattan unanimously passed a resolution on March 20, 2025, opposing the Mayor’s directive allowing ICE access to NYC public schools, demonstrating this Board’s consistent commitment to protecting immigrant families and their safe access to city institutions [22]; and
9. Due process, including the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, is a bedrock principle of the United States of America and one that must be afforded to immigrants as well [23, 24, 25]; and
10. There is no research that shows that immigrants are more likely to commit crimes, and jurisdictions with sanctuary policies tend to experience lower crime rates. [26-33]; and
11. The rhetoric used to justify increased immigration enforcement is a false and dangerous narrative that criminalizes immigrants, despite overwhelming data to the contrary. [30-38];

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT COMMUNITY BOARD 2, MANHATTAN

1. Reaffirms its commitment to New York City as a welcoming city and to the principle that all residents deserve safety, dignity, and access to many public services, regardless of immigration status; and
2. Condemns the false and inflammatory narratives used by the Mayor and others to justify increased local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement and urges all city and state officials to actively counter such rhetoric with facts, compassion, and integrity; and
3. Calls on the Mayoral Administration, NYPD, DOC, Department of Homeless Services (DHS), Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), and other city agencies and officials to ensure full compliance with local Sanctuary Laws by not using city resources to support federal immigration authorities; and
4. Urges the City Council and Mayor to create a comprehensive and unified plan to aid immigrant communities, including other areas of NYC law that add an undue burden (e.g. street vendor permitting), and to allocate increased funding in the upcoming budget for:
 - Legal aid services for immigrants facing detention or deportation
 - Know Your Rights education, outreach, and legal workshops via capacity-building grants for schools, hospitals, and faith institutions and other channels.
 - Community-based organizations providing culturally competent support to immigrant communities

Vote: Passed, 32 Board Members in favor, 3 abstentions (V. De La Rosa, M. Fitzgerald, R. Sanz).

References:

1. “Executive Order 124”. August 7, 1989. [Office of the Mayor, NYC](#)
2. “MOIA Legal Library”. [NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs \(MOIA\)](#)
3. “Why New York Is a Sanctuary City, and How That Could Change Under Trump”. February 17, 2025. [The New York Times](#)
4. “Guidance Concerning Local Authorities’ Participation in Immigration Enforcement”. January 19, 2017. [New York State Attorney General](#)
5. “Letter to Commissioner Castro re: Sanctuary Laws”. December 16, 2024. [Office of the NYC Comptroller](#)
6. “Mayor Eric Adams’s Threats to New York as a Sanctuary City”. March 12, 2025. [New York City Bar Association](#)
7. “Immigration Equal Protection and Sanctuary City Resolution”. December 2016. [Manhattan Community Board 10](#)
8. “Protect NYC's Sanctuary Laws”. [NYCLU](#)
9. “After Meeting With Trump’s Border Czar, Adams Opens Rikers to ICE Agents”. February 13, 2025. [The New York Times](#)

10. “Adams administration will allow ICE to open office on Rikers Island”. April 8, 2025. [CBS News](#)
11. “Executive Order 50”. April 8, 2025. [Office of the Mayor, NYC](#)
12. “Adams’ ICE Office at Rikers Opens The Door For Trump Civil Rights Violations”. April 8, 2025. [New York Immigration Coalition \(NYIC\)](#)
13. “Police Say ICE Tactics Are Eroding Public Trust in Local Law Enforcement”. March 30, 2025. [National Public Radio \(NPR\)](#)
14. “‘Shredding of the American Dream’: Immigrants fear ICE raids at schools”. February 19, 2025. [City & State New York](#)
15. “Mayor Adams’s Stance on Migrants Has Evolved, in Trump’s Direction”. Dec, 10, 2024. [The New York Times](#)
16. “What to Do if You’re Stopped by Immigration Officers”. Feb 14, 2020 [NYCLU](#)
17. “Community Resources for Immigrant NYers”. [New York Immigration Coalition \(NYIC\)](#)
18. “Resources to Equip Immigrant Communities”. [Interfaith Center of New York](#)
19. “Immigration Know Your Rights Information”. [Make the Road New York](#)
20. “Know Your Rights with ICE”. [Immigrant Defense Project](#)
21. “Know Your Rights Resources for Immigrant New Yorkers”. [NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs \(MOIA\)](#)
22. “Resolution Opposing the January 13, 2025, Directive Allowing ICE Access to NYC Public Schools”. March 20, 2025, [Manhattan Community Board 2](#)
23. “Substantive Due Process”. [Legal Information Institute](#)
24. “What constitutional rights do undocumented immigrants have?”. June 25, 2018. [PBS News](#)
25. “5 Rights of Undocumented Immigrants”. [Clearwater Law Group](#)
26. “The Effects of Sanctuary Policies on Crime and the Economy”. Jan 26, 2017. [Center for American Progress \(CAP\)](#)
27. “Criminal Immigrants: Their Numbers, Demographics, and Countries of Origin”. March 15, 2017. [CATO Institute](#)
28. “Sanctuary policies reduce deportations without increasing crime”. November 3, 2020. [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences \(PNAS\)](#)
29. “Sanctuary Cities and Crime”. December 2021, [Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization](#) (accessible at: [The Center for Growth and Opportunity](#))
30. “Law-Abiding Immigrants: The Incarceration Gap between Immigrants and the US-Born, 1870-2020”. July 2023. [National Bureau of Economic Research](#)
31. “Immigrants Are Less Likely to Commit Crimes Than U.S.-Born Americans, Studies Find”. March 8, 2024. [National Public Radio \(NPR\)](#)
32. “Immigrants Do Not Commit More Crimes in the US, Despite Fearmongering”. October 17, 2024. [Immigration Impact](#)
33. “Sanctuary Policies: An Overview”. February 21, 2025, [American Immigration Council](#)

34. “The Mythical Tie between Immigration and Crime”. July 21, 2023. [Stanford Institute for Policy Research](#)
35. “Debunking the Lies Politicians Say About Immigrants”. March 21, 2024. [Vera Institute of Justice](#)
36. “Debunking the Myth of the ‘Migrant Crime Wave’”. May 29, 2024. [Brennan Center for Justice](#)
37. “What’s behind recent false claims about immigrants and crime?”. September 27, 2024. [PolitiFact](#)
38. “Debunking the Myth of Immigrants and Crime”. October 2024. [American Immigration Council](#)

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Valerie De La Rosa, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Susanna Aaron, Chair
Human Services Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

cc: Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor
Hon. Randy Mastro, First Deputy Mayor
Hon. Adrienne Adams, Speaker of New York City Council
Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, NYS Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Grace Lee NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, NYC Council Member
Hon. Alexa Aviles, NYC Council Member