

**For Immediate Release**

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**Mayor de Blasio Signs Landmark Law That Will Keep Thousands  
of Immigrant Families Together**

***Community members, advocates celebrate new law that will go into effect in 30  
days, urge POTUS to take administrative action***

November 14, 2014, New York, NY — Today, Mayor Bill de Blasio signed two bills into law introduced by Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and passed by the New York City Council. The new laws, which will go into effect in 30 days, require immigration officials to present a judicial warrant before the city will hold an immigrant in custody. Even with a judicial warrant, the city will not turn people over to immigration officials unless they have a serious or violent criminal conviction or are on the terrorist watch list. Until now, the city held individuals, including some with minor criminal records, in detention upon receipt of a “detainer” request by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. New York City will once again lead the way in protecting its residents’ rights, building trust with immigrant communities, and keeping us all safer. Leading immigrants’ rights organizations, advocacy, and legal experts applauded the decision.

“Today is the culmination of a five year fight to stop the unjust collaboration between NY and ICE. Thanks to Mayor de Blasio, Speaker Mark-Viverito, and the leaders in the City Council who made this possible. We are showing our city’s commitment to keeping families together and communities safe by ending our relationship with an unjust federal deportation system—a message we hope the Obama administration hears loud and clear as he readies national action on immigration,” said **Javier Valdes, Co-Executive Director of Make the Road New York**.

“Our city is a trailblazer in protecting immigrants from detention and deportation, and this new law introduced by Speaker Mark-Viverito and now made law by Mayor de Blasio is the latest example of that leadership,” said **Ana Maria Archila, Co-Executive Director of the Center for Popular Democracy**. “Drawing a bold line between local law enforcement and the enforcement of unjust and ineffective federal immigration policies is the only way to keep NYC’s communities safe and our families together.”

“The bills are the result of tireless efforts and collaboration between the Mayor’s office, New York City council members, and community-based organizations to promote public safety, protect New Yorkers from federal immigration authorities’ intrusion into their lives, and ensure respect for New Yorkers’ constitutional rights,” said Glykeria Tsiokanou from the Immigration Justice Clinic at Cardozo School of Law.

“Speaker Mark-Viverito, Councilmember Menchaca, and now Mayor de Blasio demonstrate tremendous leadership and a strong commitment to immigrants by passing laws that limit NYC’s collaboration with our highly arbitrary and dysfunctional deportation apparatus. This law ensure that due process protections for immigrants are guaranteed and that thousands of families in NYC will remain intact,” said **Angela Fernandez, Esq., Executive Director of Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights**.

“This is a tremendous step toward greater protections for New York’s immigrant families,” said **Lisa Schreibersdorf, Executive Director of Brooklyn Defender Services**. “Federal enforcement and detention practices have been tearing families apart without due process of law. Thankfully, the De Blasio administration and our City Council have shown that New York City cares about our immigrant families and will step in to protect them against an overly harsh deportation climate.”

“In passing these bills, thousands of our city’s residents will be protected from mass deportation programs that tear apart families, waste local resources, erode public safety, and deny equal justice and due process to all New Yorkers,” said **Alisa Wellek, Co-Executive Director of the Immigrant Defense Project**. “This is an important victory for cities and states everywhere that are standing up to these brutal and unconstitutional deportation programs.”

“The mayor, speaker and entire City Council should be commended for standing up for the rights of New York City’s most vulnerable residents,” said **New York Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Donna Lieberman**. “This law promotes public safety and community trust of law enforcement, and protects basic due process rights. The rest of the country should take note and learn from New York City.”

**Directly affected individuals, immigrant rights advocates, and policy experts are available for interviews with the media.**