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## CITY TO LIMIT IMMIGRANTS HELD IN JAIL

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New York City won't cooperate with federal immigration authorities in jailing or holding individuals except in limited circumstances, under legislation passed by the City Council Wednesday.

Under the legislation, city authorities, including the New York Police Department and Department of Correction, will no longer honor detainer requests from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement unless there is a judicial warrant and the individual has been convicted of a violent crime or serious felony in the past five years. The legislation also would allow cooperation when a suspect is named on a federal terrorism watch list.

Currently, the NYPD and Department of Correction regularly honor detainment requests by ICE, handing suspected illegal immigrants over to the federal agency and sometimes holding them in a city jail for up to 48 hours until ICE can pick them up.

Additionally, in a move with both symbolic and practical implications, ICE's office on Rikers Island would be closed, cutting off the federal agency's easy access to immigrants there.

The legislation is expected to be signed by Mayor Bill de Blasio and could thrust New York into the center of the national debate over immigration reform. Other cities, like Philadelphia, San Diego, Newark, Chicago and Los Angeles, don't honor most detainer requests.

Supporters, including City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, who introduced the legislation earlier this month, said the measure demonstrates the city's willingness to challenge federal immigration policies.

"We have a city that respects the constitutional rights and dignity of all of our residents. We also have no reason to expend serious resources sustaining and enforcing broken immigration laws," Ms. Mark-Viverito said Wednesday before the vote.

The bill passed the City Council 41-6, with three Democrats joining all three Republican members voting no.

"I do not think the city should be putting roadblocks in the way when a person of interest comes into city custody," said Republican Councilman Steven Matteo of Staten Island.

A spokesman for ICE said the detainer requests are necessary to "ensure that dangerous criminals are not released from prisons or jails into our communities."

Immigrant advocates said the legislation was a decisive win, and represented an unambiguous show of support for immigrant New Yorkers. "This is the clearest statement of

city policy respecting the rights of immigrants we've seen yet," said Donna Lieberman, the executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

Daniel Coates, an organizer with Make the Road New York, a nonprofit group that advocates for poor and immigrant New Yorkers, estimated that the legislation would prevent the deportation of about 2,000 people a year. "We're going to keep more New Yorkers together with their families every single year," Mr. Coates said.

U.S. Rep. Michael Grimm, the city's sole Republican member of Congress, called the legislation "a disgrace" that would "incentivize illegals to come to our city." He said the City Council had no business refusing to cooperate with federal authorities.