January 29, 2024

New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams
New York City Council Members
City Hall, New York, NY 10007

CC: Mayor Eric Adams, Deputy Mayor of Public Safety Philip Banks, NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, DOC Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie, MOIA Commissioner Manuel Castro

Dear New York City Council Members,

As immigrant rights organizations across New York City, we unequivocally condemn Mayor Adams' vetoes of the How Many Stops Act (Intro 586) and the Ban Solitary bill (Intro 549A), which shows blatant disregard for the safety and rights of Black, Latinx, immigrant and all New Yorkers impacted by discriminatory and abusive policing as well as the torturous practice of solitary confinement. We call on our City Council now to stand firm in their support for these bills.

The How Many Stops Act is a critical measure to shine light on the New York Police Department's daily activities and ensure comprehensive accounting of all street stops, investigative encounters and consent searches. We know that discriminatory policing practices often result in violence and - in all too many cases - [death of community members who interact with police](#). For immigrant New Yorkers, encounters with the NYPD can result in [finger-printing sharing with the FBI and ICE](#), and trigger ICE detention and deportation, [whether that person is ever charged with a crime or not](#). And any arrest, even where a case is dismissed, can be used as a negative factor resulting in deportation. We also know that while NYC has fought hard to put sanctuary policies in place, there continues to be [collusion between New York City and ICE](#), such that any arrest that results in DOC custody [further risks ICE detention and deportation](#).

The Ban Solitary bill is similarly long overdue legislation to end solitary confinement in New York City beyond four hours, a form of torture which has caused irreparable harm to countless people held in city custody. For immigrants in city jails, the psychological damage is often exacerbated by past experiences of persecution and trauma both in their countries of origin from which many have fled, as well as in [ICE detention facilities with egregious conditions that likewise subject people to prolonged solitary confinement](#). Additionally, immigrant New Yorkers in solitary confinement may face further challenges to communicating with loved ones abroad, unable to seek any support.

Both bills were passed by a supermajority of our Council, following years of advocacy by community members and their loved ones, whose lives have been irreversibly harmed by long-standing practices of our police and jails. Mayor Adams is on the wrong side of history, but the Council must not be. We call on every member of this Council to stand firm and override these vetoes.

To protect immigrant New Yorkers, and all New Yorkers, we call on you to vote yes to override Mayor Adams' vetoes of the How Many Stops Act and Ban Solitary bill.

Signed,

Appellate Advocates
Arab American Association of New York
Asian American Federation
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
The Bronx Defenders
Brooklyn Defender Services
CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities
Center for Appellate Litigation
Center for Popular Democracy
Chhaya Community Development Corporation
Chinese American Planning Council
Churches United for Fair Housing-CUFFH
Co-Counsel NYC
DRUM - Desis Rising Up and Moving
Envision Freedom Fund
Families for Freedom
Immigrant Defense Project
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)
The Legal Aid Society
Latino Justice PRLDEF
Make the Road New York
Mekong NYC
Minkwon Center for Community Action
Muslim Community Network
New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU)
New York County Defender Services
New York Immigration Coalition
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
Nodutdol
Queens Defenders
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP)
Southeast Asian Defense Project
Surveillance Technology Oversight Project - S.T.O.P.
UnLocal