



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10455
(718) 585-7117 • Fax (718) 292-0558 • Email: BX01@CB.NYC.Gov

Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

CLARISA M. ALAYETO
CHAIRPERSON

February 4th, 2025

Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader of the Senate
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2301
New York, NY 10017

Kristen Gillibrand
Senator, 119th District
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601
New York, NY 10017

Dear Senator Kirsten Gillibrand & Minority Leader Chuck Schumer:

Community Board 1 wants our position to be clear as many immigration laws are being decided faster than our elected officials can communicate with us and us to them. Additionally, ICE is raiding our community right now. ICE officials claim enforcement priorities are “violent convicted offenders.” However, with the passage of the Laken Riley Act, they will expand their targets to collect individuals with no criminal history, mere accusations of crimes such as burglary, theft, or larceny over \$100. This could potentially sweep thousands of people into mandatory detention, destroying families. The statute *requires* mandatory detention when an individual:

“... is charged with, is arrested for, is convicted of, admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting offense or assault of a law enforcement officer offense, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, in any jurisdiction where the act is committed.”

The bill also lacks fundamental due process, providing no pathways for individuals to advocate against immigration detention or the underlying criminal accusation, even when the charges are dismissed or if there was a misidentification. Mandatory immigration detention based on a mere arrest is unprecedented. It ignores the constitutional rights afforded by the accused in this country, which is innocent until proven guilty. As our Attorney General, Letitia James, stated in her letter opposing this bill, “...this law would prevent the proper administration of justice by sweeping people into immigration detention before their cases can be tried and heard.”¹ Furthermore, the bill invites predatory policing, increased discrimination, surveillance, and false and unlawful arrests that disproportionately impact communities of color like ours. Because outside of legal status in this country, we and our new neighbors have very little differences.

Community Board 1 wants public safety that includes due process for everyone, and it's clear that most migrants are not engaged in any criminal activity, let alone that their presence is driving violent crime. According to an NYPD January 2025 press release, “homicides and shootings reduced for the third consecutive year.”² Considering that the migrant crisis began in 2022, the wave of migrants did not cause an increase in homicides or shootings. Furthermore, “2024 marked the second straight year of crime declines in the nation’s largest subway system.”³ New York City Police Commissioner Jessica S. Tisch “announced that 2024 concluded with a nearly 3% reduction in overall index crime, which equates to 3,662 fewer incidents and thousands of fewer victims of violence and disorder across the five boroughs.”⁴ But yet, the current administration ordered the preparation of a massive migrant detention center for 30,000 individuals in Guantanamo Bay the same day he signed the Laken Riley Act.⁵

Our community’s public safety issues stem from a high concentration of poverty, which has symptoms like homelessness, drug addictions, and physical health concerns like asthma. There is no doubt our community needs support. However, laws of this nature not only fail to address our needs but they are unnecessary, as our NY State Attorney General explained in her letter:

¹ January 16, 2025, Attorney Letitia James & others, Letter to Members of the United State Senate Re: Laken Riley Act, <https://espaillat.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/espaillat.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/Laken%20Riley%20Letter%201.17.25.pdf>

² January 6, 2025, NYPD Press Release: Crime Down Across New York City in 2024, With 3,662 Fewer Crimes, <https://www.nyc.gov/site/nypd/news/proo1/crime-down-across-new-york-city-2024-3-662-fewer-crimes>

³ See 2.

⁴ See 2.

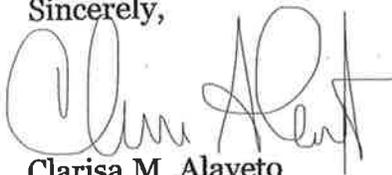
⁵ January, 29, 2025, Trump orders mass detention facility to house 30,000 migrants at Guantanamo Bay, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/01/29/trump-mass-detention-facility-at-guantanamo-bay/78028208007/>

“...Federal law already grants the authority to Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain noncitizens facing removal proceedings who have convictions for certain crimes or are believed to pose a public safety risk.”⁶

We commend Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Kristen Gillibrand, and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for voting against this bill. We hope they continue to speak out against the erosion of civil rights this bill advances. Now informed, we expect Congressman Ritchie Torres to listen to the community’s needs and prevent further harm.

Lastly, we ask for resources to protect our community members from the fear of ICE, such as “know your rights” training in multiple languages, so people can feel empowered to continue participating in society, seeking medical assistance, attending services at places of worship, taking their children to school, etc. without the threat of ICE detention.

Sincerely,



Clarisa M. Alayeto
Chairperson



Mohammed Sheikh
Committee Chair of Immigration



Dalourny Nemorin
Committee Chair of Policy & Legislation

⁶ See 1.