

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

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IN THE MATTER OF:

IDNYC RULE HEARING - THE NEW YORK
CITY IDENTIFICATION CARD PROGRAM

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DATE: March 28, 2025

HELD AT: Virtual

BEFORE: DR. ALBERT GAMARRA,
Assistant Deputy Commissioner

1 DR. ALBERT GAMARRA: My name is Dr. Albert
2 Gamarra and I am the Assistant Deputy Commissioner for
3 IDNYC at the New York City Human Resources Administration.
4 This is a public hearing, pursuant to City Administrative
5 Procedure Act, or CAPA. The New York City Identification
6 Card Program, the IDNYC program, was established to ensure
7 that New Yorkers are provided the opportunity and peace of
8 mind that comes with possessing a government-issued photo
9 identification. The program was officially launched on
10 January 12, 2015. To date, the program has enrolled
11 approximately 1.7 million individuals. In an ongoing
12 effort to serve New York's most vulnerable populations,
13 IDNYC further seeks to expand and refine the number and
14 types of reliable and verifiable documents that can be
15 accepted as proof of identity and residency.

16 IDNYC has previously adapted its program to
17 increase access for all New Yorkers, including in December
18 2021, in partnership with the Department of Corrections,
19 IDNYC began accepting the DOC photo database as proof of
20 identity for those applicants who were formerly
21 incarcerated. This helped bridge the gap to identity for
22 this population. In 2022, IDNYC restarted its partnership
23 with the New York City public schools to streamline
24 accessibility to identity documents for young New Yorkers
25 to better assist them as they work to gain access to

1 higher education along with employment opportunities such
2 as the Summer Youth Employment Program. This partnership
3 has been extremely successful with thousands of public
4 school students having attained the IDNYC card. In late
5 2022, IDNYC began accepting an internal verification
6 document that provides proof of identity as part of the
7 Department of Social Services benefits access process.
8 This change was particularly valuable for active clients,
9 including those who are unhoused.

10 Finally, in 2024, IDNYC updated its requirements
11 for establishing residency to further increase access and
12 remove barriers to obtaining an IDNYC card for asylum
13 seekers housed by the City of New York. Based on the
14 experience over the past two years and on recommendations
15 from stakeholders, including applicants, advocates, IDNYC
16 enrollment staff, and members of the City Council, the
17 IDNYC program is now proposing revisions and additions to
18 the IDNYC rules. Specifically, the proposed rule adds 23
19 different types of documents that can be used as proof of
20 identity or residency.

21 Anyone who wishes to comment on the rule will
22 have three minutes to speak. We will not be answering any
23 questions or responding to your comments today, but please
24 know that we will consider all comments received as we
25 finalize the rule. If you wish to submit written

1 testimony, the deadline is midnight tonight. Comments can
2 be emailed to nycrules@hra.gov. Once again,
3 nycrules@hra.nyc. Thank you.

4 MR. MALTZMAN: Thank you, Albert. So, far at
5 this point, we do not have anyone signed up to speak, but
6 we will go in order in which anyone at this hearing wishes
7 to speak. If there is anyone who wishes to testify, you
8 could do so by raising your hand in the chat. If you need
9 help, please let us know in the chat as well. And again,
10 reminder, as Dr. Gamarra said, you will have three minutes
11 to speak and I will let you know when your time is up. If
12 you have joined this hearing by calling in on your phone,
13 you can raise your hand by pressing *9. So, if there's
14 anyone who wishes to speak, either press *9, raise your
15 hand or please talk in the chat so we can help you out.
16 Thank you.

17 [Silence]

18 MR. MALTZMAN: If you have just joined us, if
19 you wish to testify about the proposed IDNYC rule change,
20 again, please raise your hand in the chat. Press *9 if
21 you're calling in by phone. If you need translation
22 assistance, please let us know. We do have interpreters.
23 Thank you.

24 [Silence]

25 MR. MALTZMAN: Yes, hi. Good morning. S.

1 Alvarez has raised her hand to testify. Again, just a
2 reminder, you have three minutes. I'll let you know when
3 your time is up. I cannot hear your audio.

4 [Silence]

5 MR. GAMARRA: Can anybody hear anything now?

6 MS. SCOTTY ALVAREZ: You can hear me now?

7 MR. MALTZMAN: Yes.

8 MS. ALVAREZ: Okay, great.

9 MR. MALTZMAN: Whenever you're ready
10 (inaudible).

11 MS. ALVAREZ: So, my name is Scotty. I work at
12 the Fortune Society. We're an organization that helps
13 people come back from jail. Specifically, our department
14 works with people who are serving time on Rikers Island
15 and people who are coming home from prison as well. A lot
16 of our clients come home and have no IDs or anything, and
17 a big part of our job is to get people identification so
18 they can get housing and get a job.

19 As many of you know, a stipulation of getting a
20 New York City housing voucher is being full-time employed
21 and nobody can do that without any identification and they
22 are stuck in a cycle where they're remaining in a shelter
23 and have no way of getting identification or employment.
24 It's super important with this new amendment that we'd be
25 able to find--to get their DOC lookup and provide that as

1 identification so they can get their ID.

2 MR. BEN MILLER: Yeah, I guess I would just
3 emphasize that it really is a lot of people that come
4 through our doors which get stuck because they are not
5 able to prove their identification because they don't have
6 the means to gather the points that a lot of the other
7 less do. For example, a bank account, a high school
8 diploma, these other things which usually add up to
9 getting points. So, yeah, I guess I would just second
10 what Scotty said in that this really would be a huge,
11 life-changing amendment for a lot of the people we work
12 with and really change their ability to get a job, get
13 housing, and move their life forward.

14 MS. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

15 MR. MALTZMAN: Thank you. The second person who
16 spoke, could you just state your name for the record?

17 MR. MILLER: My name is Ben Miller. I also work
18 for Fortune Society.

19 MR. MALTZMAN: Thank you.

20 [Silence]

21 MR. MALTZMAN: Again, if you've just joined us,
22 anyone wishing to testify about the proposed IDNYC rule
23 change, please raise your hand in the chat. Press *9 if
24 you're calling in by phone. If you need translation
25 assistance, please also let us know in the chat and we can

1 help you out. Thank you.

2 [Silence]

3 MR. MALTZMAN: I see we have a hand raised.

4 Gina? Hi, good morning.

5 GINA: Good morning. My name is Gina. I'm
6 curious how these 23 documents were determined. I know
7 today the list of documents and their point systems are a
8 lot shorter, but it's still difficult for a lot of people
9 to understand exactly what they need. So, for example,
10 something like a foreign passport that is machine
11 readable, I think it's confusing for a lot of people and
12 I've seen this happen where people don't know how to
13 interpret that. So, it's kind of a question with many
14 smaller pronged questions of are there any visual--well,
15 A, how are these--how were these 23 documents determined?
16 Are there visual documentation or something that will help
17 people understand what each of these might look like? And
18 I'm also curious how--if this has been tested with
19 citizens or recent residents, just to kind of see if they
20 understand what these look like and if they'd be readily
21 available for people to show up in-person to show.

22 MR. MALTZMAN: Thank you. This time, we're just
23 listening to testimony. So, we're just taking testimony.
24 We're not answering questions. Thank you.

25 [Silence]

1 MR. MALTZMAN: Again, at this time, if you've
2 just joined us and you wish to testify about the proposed
3 IDNYC rule change, please raise your hand in the chat or
4 press *9 if you're calling in by phone. If you need
5 translation assistance, please also let us know. At this
6 time, we're just listening to testimony. We're not
7 answering any questions. Thank you.

8 [Silence]

9 MR. MALTZMAN: I see we have a hand raised. If
10 you could just state your name once you're unmuted,
11 www.KLove.com. You can just state your name.

12 KAYE: Yes, Kaye from the Bronx. Yeah, I
13 couldn't unmute for some reason. And I'm sorry, you're
14 Dan, right?

15 MR. MALTZMAN: Yes, correct. You have three
16 minutes to speak once you're ready.

17 KAYE: So, yeah, just as an insight, I was able
18 to just read the detail of it on the website and I
19 downloaded it. And just for everyone else who needs to
20 actually have a good reading experience, definitely get
21 the Adobe Acrobat because if you try to read it regularly,
22 like when you download it, it's like it doesn't fit nicely
23 on your screen of your phone. That's if you're using a
24 phone, you're using a computer, maybe it's different, but
25 I'm usually always on my phone and it's hard to read it

1 because then you have to slide back and forth. It doesn't
2 just--you can't just zoom in or zoom out and it fits
3 directly on your phone. So, if anyone is having that
4 problem and it's annoying reading the information, yeah,
5 definitely get the Adobe Acrobat. It comes in handy
6 because then when you zoom in, it makes it nice and big
7 and you can read it very easily, right? So, as I was
8 reading it, I noticed it says the IDNYC has previously
9 adapted its program to increase access for all New
10 Yorkers, including, and then it says in December, 2020, 21
11 in partnership with the Department of Correction IDNYC
12 began accepting the DOC photo database as proof of
13 identity for those applicants who were formerly
14 incarcerated. This helped bridge the gap to identify or
15 the identity for this population. Now, this was speaking--
16 -this is actually speaking to the young lady that was up
17 before that was saying that it might be a little
18 difficult, but if someone has been incarcerated, it
19 appears that they automatically connect to the DOC in
20 order to confirm the identity. So, that might be--or
21 something she might want to look into.

22 And it also says in 2022, IDNYC restarted its
23 partnership with the Department of Education to streamline
24 accessibility to identify documents for young New Yorkers
25 to better assist as they work to gain access to higher

1 education, along with employment opportunities such as
2 summer youth employment program. This partnership has
3 been extremely successful with thousands of public school
4 students having attained the IDNYC card. So, this sounds
5 great. I mean, I didn't even know. I just read this
6 stuff and it seems like it's a great program. The various
7 ways they're allowing individuals to confirm or
8 corroborate their identity.

9 Same thing, I think, for social services. In
10 late 2022, IDNYC began accepting an internal verification
11 document that provides proof of identity as part of the
12 Department of Social Services benefits access process.
13 This change was particularly valuable for active clients,
14 including those who are unhoused. So, that's also pretty
15 great. I mean, I think it's wonderful.

16 And let's see, and that's basically--and it has
17 some other things for asylum seekers, and so on, and so
18 forth. So, if you really didn't read, whoever really
19 didn't read this, yeah, take time to get that Adobe
20 Acrobat app. And then it will make reading such a
21 pleasure, because it'll make the words, the fonts nice and
22 big, and it will be--very easily fits right on your phone.
23 So, this way reading will be a pleasure. So, that's just
24 the insight I wanted to tell everyone. And also, yeah.

25 MR. MALTZMAN: Thank you. That concludes your

1 three minutes. I appreciate your comments. Thank you.

2 KAYE: Thanks, Dan. And I appreciate you.

3 MR. MALTZMAN: Thank you.

4 [Silence]

5 MR. MALTZMAN: I just want to thank everyone for
6 coming today and sharing your thoughts and testimony on
7 the proposed IDNYC rule. Also, thank you to our
8 interpreters, ASL and language interpreters. This
9 concludes the public hearing. Thank you.

10 MALE VOICE 1: You're welcome. Stay sharp, Dan.

11 FEMALE VOICE 1: Ellen, are you good with the
12 chat?

13 ELLEN: Yes.

14 FEMALE VOICE 1: All right.

15 AUTOMATED VOICE: Good-bye.

16 (Proceeding Concluded.)

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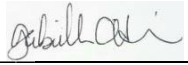
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Gabrielle Atkinson, certify that the foregoing transcript of proceedings of IDNYC Rule Hearing - The New York City Identification Card Program, was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.



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