



December 21, 2023

Mayor Eric Adams  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams:

**As we experience the harsh cold of winter, we urge New York City to uphold the Right to Shelter requirement and to end its arbitrary and harmful 30- and 60-day shelter limits for new immigrants.** These deadlines have [crippled New York's Right to Shelter requirement](#), which was intended to protect vulnerable New Yorkers from sleeping on the streets, amidst the elements, for more than 40 years.

We have already witnessed the harm that 30-day limits have inflicted on adult migrants without children, who have either had to sleep on the streets indefinitely while reapplying for housing or who have been abandoned by the system altogether. As of early December, the *New York Times* [reports](#) that **fewer than 25% of the over 20,000 single adult migrants who have reached their 30-day limit have returned to a city shelter. Many of those seeking to return have been forced to sleep outside re-ticketing centers for days in below-freezing temperatures as they wait to reapply for beds.** What's more, city officials [have not tracked](#) the remaining 75% of single adult migrants who do not return to shelters, making it impossible to understand what has happened to these individuals and for community-based organizations to assist. As elected offices working with new immigrants across New York City, we can attest to the rampant fear of being tossed onto the streets with zero resources for survival. At a time when many in the city are celebrating the holidays – [including our City administration](#) – this policy is particularly cruel.

Meanwhile, **many families with children will face their 60-day limit shortly after Christmas.** As with single adults, these families arrived in New York without winter clothing, leaving them incredibly vulnerable to the elements. Numerous educators and advocacy groups [have warned](#) that uprooting families every two months will have **devastating consequences for children's education and development.** Families will have to choose between significantly longer commutes and school transfers – thus threatening to break children's newfound bonds with their school communities, and worsening the already severe rates of [chronic absenteeism](#) among students in shelters. Fifteen Council Members and numerous advocacy organizations have already acknowledged the harms of the 30- and 60-day limits by supporting [Intro. 1212](#) – which would ban the implementation of the 30 and 60 day rules.

Throughout the influx of new arrivals, the City has failed to fix the staffing and administrative issues that are preventing thousands from accessing supportive housing. Instead of addressing these emergencies, the

Adams administration has ordered a [20% cut](#) in spending on migrants. These cuts will put countless more people in harm and continue to destabilize New York City services.

In agreement with the [New York Shelter for All in Need Equally \(NY SANE\) Coalition](#), we demand the following from the Mayoral Administration:

- End the 30-day and 60-day shelter limits imposed by your administration for newly arrived individuals, as they are both arbitrary and unconscionable, and do so immediately given the harsh winter weather
- Resolve the administrative obstacles that are 1) disabling thousands of people in need from utilizing rent vouchers and accessing supportive housing, including the Mayor's [failure to implement](#) the City FHEPS package that City Council passed into law in May, and 2) blocking faith-based groups from being able to provide shelter beds to new arrivals
- Increase the casework staff serving new arrival households to adequately provide support and pathways to stability
- Provide families with children safe placements in non-congregate facilities with private locking rooms, without exception
- Mandate that former caseworkers contact all clients evicted from shelter since the 30- and 60-day notices went into effect and offer support with new shelter placements

The Right to Shelter requirement guarantees decency for all residents of New York, whether newly arrived or not. We want to ensure this policy is protected, while continuing to advocate for comprehensive, systemic policies in our respective legislative sessions – including building deeply affordable housing, expanding rental assistance, enacting robust tenant protections and increasing funding for legal representation and social services. As we work towards these solutions to better equip the City to address the influx of new immigrants, **we ask that you cease the 30- and 60-day shelter limitations for new arrivals.**

Sincerely,



Senator Julia Salazar, 18th District



Assembly Member Catalina Cruz, 39th District



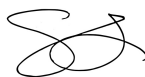
Jumaane D. Williams  
New York City Public Advocate



Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani, 36th District



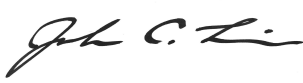
Brad Lander  
New York City Comptroller



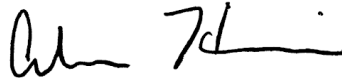
Assembly Member Steven Raga,  
30th District



Council Member Shahana Hanif,  
39th District



Senator John C. Liu, 16th District



Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, 28th District



Council Member Christopher Marte, 1st District



Senator Jabari Brisport, 25th District



Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson, 31st District



Council Member Carlina Rivera, 2nd District



Senator Liz Krueger, 28th District



Assembly Member Jessica González-Rojas, 34th District



Council Member Gale Brewer, 6th District



Senator José M. Serrano, 29th District



Assembly Member Bobby Carroll, 44th District



Council Member Shaun Abreu, 7th District



Senator Cordell Cleare, 30th District



Assembly Member Emily Gallagher, 50th District



Council Member Kristin Richardson Jordan, 9th District



Senator Robert Jackson, 31st District



Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes, 51st District



Council Member Carmen De La Rosa, 10th District



Senator Gustavo Rivera, 33rd District



Assembly Member Phara Souffrant Forrest, 57th District



Council Member Pierina Sanchez, 14th District



Senator Kristen Gonzalez, 59th District



Assembly Member Grace Lee, 65th District



Council Member Tiffany Cabán, 22nd District



Assembly Member Al Taylor,  
71st District



Assembly Member Alex Bores,  
73rd District



Assembly Member Harvey  
Epstein, 74th District



Assembly Member Tony  
Simone, 75th District



Assembly Member Chantel  
Jackson, 79th District



Assembly Member Karines  
Reyes, 87th District



Council Member Shekar  
Krishnan, 25th District



Council Member Julie Won,  
26th District



Council Member Lincoln  
Restler, 33rd District



Council Member Jennifer  
Gutiérrez, 34th District



Council Member Crystal  
Hudson, 35th District



Council Member Chi Ossé, 36th  
District



Council Member Sandy Nurse,  
37th District



Council Member Alexa Avilés,  
38th District



Council Member Rita Joseph,  
District 40

