



June 5, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington DC, 20003

Dear President Biden,

We write to request that you act immediately to grant work authorization to New York City's asylum seeker population through Humanitarian Parole and Temporary Protected Status, and that you increase the number of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) staff to expedite application processing.

The individuals and families coming to New York are professionals, including, business owners, welders, teachers, reporters, and more. Tens of thousands of asylum seekers in New York City want and need to work, but very few have been approved to do so and they face years-long processing times for their applications. Many are working without authorization, which puts them at risk of exploitation and injury.

No work means no money. No money means no way to afford an apartment or groceries. No apartment or groceries means full dependence on city social services and non-profit organizations. Full dependence means an open-ended and heavy strain on the city budget and the asylum seekers' dignity and mobility.

The Department of Homeland Security has the discretion to grant Humanitarian Parole and Temporary Protected Status without Congressional action. The regulations are broad: parole can be granted for "urgent humanitarian reasons" or "significant public benefit." Both scenarios are applicable to the situation in New York City.

New York City is perhaps the only city in the nation with the infrastructure, jobs, and generosity to handle this crisis, but we can't sustain it if migrants can't work. We urge you to take the steps necessary to grant work authorization right away.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gale A. Brewer in black ink.

Council Member Gale A. Brewer

Handwritten signature of Adrienne Adams in black ink.

Speaker Adrienne E. Adams



Comptroller Brad Lander



Public Advocate Jumaane Williams



Council Member Chi Ossé



Council Member Erik Bottcher



Council Member Althea Stevens



Council Member Kamillah M. Hanks



Council Member Charles Barron



Council Member Crystal Hudson



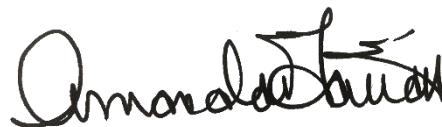
Council Member Shaun Abreu



Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez



Council Member Pierina Ana Sanchez



Council Member Amanda Farías



Council Member Carmen De La Rosa



Council Member Tiffany Cabán



Council Member Carlina Rivera



Council Member Diana Ayala



Council Member Shahana Hanif



Council Member Farah N. Louis



Council Member Sandy Nurse



Council Member Lynn Schulman



Council Member Oswald Feliz



Council Member Alexa Avilés



Council Member Eric Dinowitz



Council Member James F. Gennaro



Council Member Justin Brannan



Council Member Julie Menin,



Council Member Julie Won



Council Member Kevin C. Riley



Council Member Keith Powers



Council Member Kristin Richardson Jordan



Council Member Linda Lee



Council Member Lincoln Restler



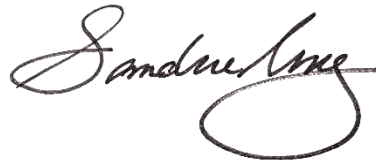
Council Member Francisco Moya



Council Member Marjorie Velásquez



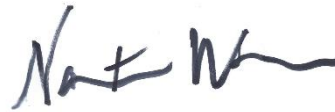
Council Member Mercedes Narcisse



Council Member Sandra Ung



Council Member Shekar Krishnan



Council Member Nantasha Williams



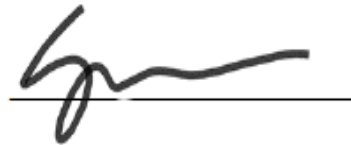
Council Member Rafael Salamanca, Jr.



Council Member Christopher Marte, District 1



Council Member Rita Joseph



Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers



Senator Jamaal Bailey



Senator Jabari Brisport



Senator Cordell Cleare



Senator Leroy Comrie



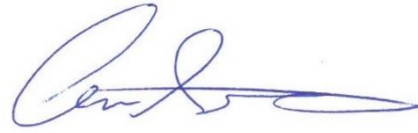
Senator Nathalia Fernandez



Senator Michael Gianaris



Senator Kristen Gonzalez



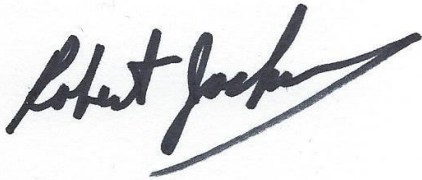
Senator Andrew Gouardes



Senator Michelle Hinchey



Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal



Senator Robert Jackson



State Senator Brian Kavanagh



Senator Liz Krueger



Senator John Liu



Senator Shelley B. Mayer



Senator Zellnor Myrie




Senator Roxanne Persaud



Senator Jessica Ramos



Senator Gustavo Rivera



Senator James Sanders, Jr.



Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda



State Senator José M. Serrano



Senator Toby Ann Stavisky