

THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

April 7, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

New York has a rich history of welcoming anyone who wishes to call this great city and country their home. The people in our five boroughs, regardless of length of stay or immigration status, are the singular reason why this city is the cultural and economic center of the world. Our commitment as leaders and elected officials of New York City to continue the city's legacy of embracing, supporting, and celebrating its diverse people will never waver.

Over the past year, we demonstrated our commitment to these values by providing basic human necessities – including food, shelter, education, and medical and legal care – to the tens of thousands of people seeking asylum in the United States, who arrived in our city. We have accepted a major share of migrants, contributing to the nation's response, and we are once again requesting that the federal government support New York City's efforts.

The city just days ago on March 29, 2023 submitted its reimbursement application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for \$650 million to cover the costs absorbed for these efforts thus far. We write to formally express our unequivocal support for New York City's application to ensure the city receives an adequate amount of this requested federal funding. The level of additional costs that we have borne to support this significant addition to our population has impacted the city, and federal support is essential.

The city's economy is resilient, and we remain optimistic about our future. Yet these costs, together with the intersecting financial challenges from expiring federal COVID stimulus funds and a delayed impact of the pandemic on our economy and recovery, present a fiscal strain on our city. Federal funding and support for the city, including fulfillment of our reimbursement application recently submitted, are essential and urgent.

In addition to federal funding, we also reiterate our request for operational support that addresses barriers to equitable and expedient immigration legal processes and work authorizations. The inability for many to legally work and successfully proceed through the immigration process has been a major impediment that must be addressed to reduce the unnecessary obstacles for asylum seekers and New York City to achieve stability.

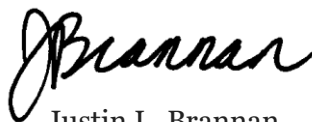
We look forward to a positive outcome and our continued work with you on behalf of our city and the more than 8 million New Yorkers. Together, we can help advance the success of New York City

and the nation. Thank you for your consideration and leadership, and please let us know how we can be helpful to achieve our shared priorities and values.

Sincerely,



Adrienne E. Adams
Speaker
New York City Council



Justin L. Brannan
Chair of Finance Committee
New York City Council

Cc: Sen. Charles E. Schumer, Senate Majority Leader
Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Rep. Hakeem S. Jeffries, House Minority Leader
Members of New York City's Congressional Delegation
Deanne Criswell, FEMA Administrator
Anne Bink, Associate Administrator for Response and Recovery, FEMA
Melissa Forbes, Assistant Administrator, Recovery Directorate, FEMA