

**Compilation of Public Comments Received Concerning
Proposed Rule Amending the IDNYC Rules**

A proposed rule amending the IDNYC rules was published in the City Record on February 9, 2016 and a public hearing was held on March 10, 2016. Members of the public had the opportunity to comment via the NYC Rules website, email, mail and phone and at the hearing. A total of three written comments were received, all of which are attached. The first attached comment was also read aloud at the hearing. No other public comments were received.

Staten
Island
Legal
Services

Legal
Services NYC

Testimony Submitted to the New York City Human Resources Administration

**Re: Amendment to Chapter 6 of Title 68 of the Rules of the City of New York (IDNYC)
Thursday, March 10, 2016, 9:30 a.m.**

Good morning, my name is Lorilei Williams and I am the Director of Immigration at Staten Island Legal Services, part of Legal Services NYC.

Legal Services NYC is the largest provider of free civil legal services in the nation with offices in all five boroughs where we assist over 60,000 New Yorkers annually with a wide range of civil legal needs.

IDNYC has been a valuable document for many New York City residents as photo identification is crucial for life in the City. If our clients do not have some form of picture ID, their lives are hampered and they are unable to do basic things such as enter city buildings and courthouses or open a bank account. For many of our clients, having a Municipal ID has provided them not only with an identification document, but also with stability by enabling them to access more services and business throughout the city.

We applaud the city for expanding the categories of documents it will accept to prove New York City residency to obtain an ID. We have a few additional suggestions to propose.

In addition to including documents issued by the NYS Department of Corrections, we urge the Council to also accept documents issued by the federal government, such as Orders of Supervision or Release on Recognizance issued by the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Verification of Release Form (VRF) issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). While we recognize that the VRF issued by ORR will be used to establish residency and a caretaker relationship, we urge the City to also consider it for proving identity.

Staten Island Legal Services
36 Richmond Terrace, Suite 205 Staten Island, NY 10301
Phone: 718-233-6480 Fax: 718-448-2264
www.statenislandlegalservices.org
Nancy Goldhill, Project Director



We note that the City will accept Form I-94, Arrival/Departure records issued by the DHS if the I-94 contains an individual's date of birth, photo, and fingerprint. However, not all I-94s contain a photograph and/or fingerprint. In fact, most I-94 cards are now issued electronically without a photo or fingerprint. If the City insists that an applicant for an ID provide an I-94 card that includes a photo or fingerprint, the process of obtaining an ID will be more onerous for the City's immigrant population and we hope the Council will eliminate the photograph and fingerprint requirement.

We also urge the City to accept receipt notices issued by the DHS for pending applications for relief, as well as Notices to Appear issued by the DHS as proof of identity. For immigrants seeking relief affirmatively or in court, the process can be lengthy and arduous. For instance, crime victims applying for a U-visa must wait two years or longer before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service can approve their case. Similarly, immigrants facing removal from the country often must fight their cases in Immigration Court for several years before obtaining relief. Some immigrants in removal proceedings, may have their cases administratively closed but will not have an official "order" from the Immigration Court stating that their cases have been completed, as administratively closing an immigration case does not mean that the removal case has been terminated or that relief has been granted. Accepting receipt notices and Notices to Appear will protect immigrants from lengthy waits before they can secure this important ID.

For both identity and residency requirements, we urge that the City accept letters from attorneys and service providers attesting to an applicant's identity and residency. This requirement should not be limited only to domestic violence survivors or homeless individuals, but should include trafficking survivors and others undergoing crises, such as individuals facing eviction or dealing with natural disasters. In the alternative, we urge that the City develop a mechanism by which individuals who are in crisis and who do not facially fulfill the evidentiary requirements are given individualized consideration on a case-by-case basis.

It is encouraging that the City recognizes that many children live in unique households without a legal parent or guardian and may be in the care of someone else while being under 21

Staten
Island
Legal
Services

Legal
Services NYC

years of age. Allowing caretakers to assist minors under 21 in obtaining identification is a welcome addition to the existing rule. We specifically thank the City for acknowledging that unaccompanied minors and children, many of whom have mental health needs, will require assistance in applying for an ID and for amending the rule to ensure such individuals get access to a Municipal ID.

Finally, while not addressed in the current proposals, we urge the City to encourage businesses, buildings, and organizations to accept the municipal ID. In particular, banks should accept the municipal ID to ascertain a customer's identity so that vulnerable individuals, such as our clients, are not forced to carry cash, putting them at greater risk of theft and other crimes.

Thank you again for amending the Municipal ID rule. We are confident that the City will continue to improve services for all disadvantaged New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



Lorilei A. Williams
Director, Immigration Law Project
Staten Island Legal Services
36 Richmond Terrace rm 205
Staten Island, NY 10301
Direct/Fax: 718-233-6492
lawilliams@silsnyc.org
www.statenislandlegalservices.org

From: Nikki Lucas [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:13 AM
To: IDNYC RULE
Subject: IDNYC concern

Greetings,

Many of those from the immigrant population have tried to use this ID to open bank accounts at some of the local banking institutions and the ID is not accepted. Is there anything being put in place to remedy this obstacle? Please advise

Respectfully,
Nikki Lucas
[REDACTED]
Member of CB#5 &
Economic Development Committee
Founder of People First Democratic Club &
People First Education Fund



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

March 3, 2016

By Mail and Email

<idnycrule@hra.nyc.gov>

IDNYC

P.O. Box 24866

Brooklyn, NY 11201-4866

Re: Comments from New York City Council Members Daniel Dromm and Andrew Cohen regarding Proposed Amendment of Municipal ID Rules to Include Special Designation for Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Dear Hearing Officer:

We submit the following comment to the rule changes relating to New York City's municipal identification (IDNYC) currently under consideration by the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA):

Proposed rule change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 6-02 of Chapter 6 of Title 68 of the Rules of the City of New York should be amended to allow qualified applicants to request an optional special designation for autism and autism spectrum disorder placed on the front of the IDNYC card.
Requirements for Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The IDNYC application shall include a field that provides applicants the opportunity to authorize the designation on their IDNYC card.• IDNYC applicants shall present an official signed document from a qualified medical professional verifying a diagnosis for autism spectrum disorder, in addition to completing the standard enrollment process for IDNYC.
Notification to Law Enforcement Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HRA shall provide information to the Police Department and other law enforcement agencies to train officers on how to recognize and properly respond to the designation.

Providing a special designation for ASD on IDNYC cards would improve interactions between individuals with autism and law enforcement and first responders. Individuals with ASD may become anxious or distressed during a police encounter or medical emergency. Without intending to do so, these individuals may appear noncompliant, oppositional, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Alabama offers residents a unique identification card which contains information about ASD sensitivity. The police department of Coral Gables, Florida recognizes a similar card issued by the University of Miami Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, which identifies its holders as diagnosed with ASD. Virginia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania are considering an ASD designation on government-issued identification cards.

In July 2015, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the introduction of a veteran designation to the IDNYC card, an important change that now allows veterans to access unique opportunities and support services. Similarly, we believe that offering a special designation for individuals with ASD on IDNYC cards will extend the opportunity for improved services and other benefits for which the municipal identification card was designed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dromm', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel Dromm
Chair, Committee on Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Cohen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Cohen
Chair, Committee on Mental Health,
Developmental Disability, Alcoholism,
Substance Abuse and Disability Services