

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

May 27, 2026

The Honorable Melinda Katz
District Attorney
Queens District Attorney's Office
125-01 Queens Boulevard
Kew Garden, New York 11415

Dear Ms. Katz:

The Committee on the Judiciary is conducting oversight of state and local jurisdictions that endanger American communities through their refusal to cooperate with federal immigration officials and their prioritization of illegal and criminal aliens over American citizens. We write to request information about your office's sanctuary policies, which ultimately endanger the communities you serve.

During your tenure, the Queens District Attorney's Office has routinely undermined the rule of law under the guise of safeguarding the public. For years, your office has openly given preferential treatment to aliens based solely on their immigration status, even employing an "Immigration Specialist" to help dangerous foreign nationals avoid immigration consequences for their criminality.¹ Recognizing that "[a] broad range of criminal convictions may trigger severe immigration consequences" for criminal aliens, the Immigration Specialist "helps Assistant District Attorneys navigate through plea options and assist in framing dispositions that will prevent unwanted immigration consequences."² This work includes guidance for "post-conviction relief motions" and "request[s] for prosecutorial discretion" for foreign nationals,³ "training to incoming prosecutors," participation "in conferences for plea negotiation," "case specific written analysis" for certain cases,⁴ advice on "changing immigration laws and policies," and counsel on "[i]ssues surrounding clemency and pardons."⁵

¹ See Appeals and Special Litigation Div., Queens District Att'y's Off., <https://queensda.org/appeals-special-litigation/> (last accessed Apr. 27, 2026).

² *Id.*

³ Brave Justice Annual Rep. 2025, Queens District Att'y's Off., at 51 (2025), https://queensda.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/BraveJustice_2025_final_digital_sm.pdf.

⁴ Brave Justice Annual Rep. 2023, Queens District Att'y's Off., at 67 (2023), https://queensda.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/BraveJustice_2023_digital_final.pdf.

⁵ Brave Justice Annual Rep. 2021, at 91 (2021), https://queensda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BraveJusticeVol3_2021_final_digital.pdf.

The Queens District Attorney's Office's policies shield criminal aliens from accountability and ultimately imperil New York communities. You have highlighted your agenda "to provide relief for transformative individuals whose immigration status was fatally affected through a guilty plea from a time when the overall justice system did not consider immigration."⁶ In 2021 alone, you personally "authorized 27 applications, involving convictions that had significant immigration consequences, to be replead."⁷ In 2020, the Immigration Specialist assisted with "more than 30 dispositions," including "21 cases where defendants had their convictions reduced or vacated entirely" and "[six] cases where the District Attorney recommended a pardon to the Governor so that defendants could avoid deportation consequences."⁸

Under your office's pro-crime, pro-illegal immigration policies, illegal alien criminals are allowed to freely operate, terrorize local communities, and reoffend without consequences. Like other sanctuary jurisdictions we have examined, the shielding of criminal aliens from immigration enforcement in Queens undermines public safety and thwarts the efficient enforcement of federal law. Accordingly, to assist the Committee with its continued oversight of federal immigration policy and to inform potential legislative reforms to address sanctuary policies, we ask that you provide the following information:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to the Queens District Attorney's Office's interaction with Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the period January 1, 2020, to the present;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to the Queens District Attorney's Office's policies related to the prosecution of non-U.S. citizens for the period January 1, 2020, to the present;
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to active and closed cases in which attorneys in the Queens District Attorney's Office considered immigration collateral consequences, including the defendants' initial charges and the cases' ultimate dispositions, for the period January 1, 2020, to the present, including:
 - a. Active and closed cases in which the Queens District Attorney's Office authorized an alien defendant to replead;
 - b. Active and closed cases in which an alien defendant had a conviction reduced or vacated;
 - c. Active and closed cases in which the Queens District Attorney's Office recommended a pardon to the Governor;

⁶ Brave Justice Annual Rep. 2023, *supra* note 4.

⁷ Brave Justice Annual Rep. 2021, *supra* note 5, at 88.

⁸ Brave Justice Annual Rep. 2020, at 38 (2020), https://queensda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/BraveJusticeV2_2020_Final.pdf.


4. All documents and communications referring or relating to the Queens District Attorney's Office's Immigration Specialist for the period January 1, 2020, to the present, including:
 - a. Active and closed cases in which the Immigration Specialist consulted or advised, including the alien defendants' initial charges and the cases' ultimate dispositions;
 - b. Active and closed cases for which the Immigration Specialist provided guidance on post-conviction relief motions, guidance on prosecutorial discretion, or case-specific written analysis;
 - c. Active and closed cases in which the Immigration Specialist participated in conferences for plea negotiation;
 - d. Training materials about immigration enforcement and immigration collateral consequences;
 - e. Advice on changing immigration laws and policies;
5. All documents and communications referring or relating to the Queens District Attorney's Office's policies related to bond for non-U.S. citizens for the period January 1, 2020, to the present; and
6. All documents and communications between or among the Queens District Attorney's Office, the New York City Police Department, and the New York City Department of Correction referring or relating to immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2020, to the present.

Please provide the information requested as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 10, 2026. The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of federal immigration law pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.⁹ If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman



Tom McClintock
Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

⁹ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).

The Honorable Melinda Katz

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cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement