

Mayor Renews Talks On Immigrant Policy

The New York Times

September 5, 2003 Friday, Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section B; Column 1; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 206 words

Body

Just minutes before members of the City Council planned to declare an impasse yesterday in their efforts to get **Mayor** Michael R. Bloomberg to amend a **policy** on how city workers should deal with illegal **immigrants**, the **mayor** called them back to the negotiating table.

Mayor Bloomberg's decision to personally call one of his most outspoken critics on the issue, Councilman Hiram Monserrate of Queens, and to form a new group to try once more to reach a compromise reflects how politically sensitive the matter has become for him.

For years the city forbade its workers from disclosing information on a person's immigration status to federal authorities, so as not to discourage illegal **immigrants** from reporting crimes, seeking medical help or getting other vital services. But after Congress changed the law, a federal court ruled that the city's **policy** was illegal.

So the **mayor** issued a new **policy**, effectively replacing the old "don't tell" one with a new "don't ask" one in all but a few cases. But the outcry that greeted the decision might be enough by itself to frighten people without green cards from seeking city services. So he agreed to amend the **policy**. So far efforts to find common ground with the Council have failed.

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CITY GOVERNMENT (91%); IMMIGRATION (90%); CITIES (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); IMMIGRATION REGULATION & **POLICY** (90%); PUBLIC **POLICY** (90%); REGIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); ILLEGAL **IMMIGRANTS** (77%); CIVIL SERVICES (77%); IMMIGRATION LAW (77%); LITIGATION (77%); SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCES (74%); DECISIONS & RULINGS (73%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2008 (73%)

Person: MICHAEL BLOOMBERG (73%); Michael R (**Mayor**) Bloomberg

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Geographic: NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); New York City; New York City

Load-Date: September 5, 2003

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