

Hi. My name is Teesha Foreman. I am the Second Vice President of CWA Local 1180. We represent 9,000 public sector workers in New York City and private sector workers across the country. We are a progressive union that works for the benefit of **ALL** New Yorkers, whether they are natives, transplants, or new immigrants.

We support New York being a right-to-shelter state. Since 1981, the homeless population of New York City and New York State has been legally guaranteed access to shelter. While this mandate has endured for four decades, the City is struggling to contain a crisis of homelessness with hundreds of refugees languishing on sidewalks and camping out in cardboard boxes. It's not the preferred situation for the City – and it's definitely not for the refugees themselves.

However, the influx of roughly 100,000 migrants since last spring has become an enormous drain on the already stressed City coffers. We are facing a humanitarian crisis beyond the scope of what anyone could imagine. Migrants want to work but cannot. They want to become self-sufficient, but they cannot. They want to make a better life for themselves, but they cannot.

WHY?

Because City officials have asked for expedited work authorizations from the federal government but they have not received a reply. New York City needs answers . . . and results.

Lady Liberty's words are the heart of our great City – Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. Those words, however, do **NOT** say that one city . . . and one city alone . . . should bear the burden of 100,000 new migrants in one year.

Local 1180 stands here today in solidarity with City officials and we call on the federal government to take **swift** action in expediting the work authorizations for our new immigrants.

We are stronger together and when we fight, we win!