

City Attorney Update for Saint Paul City Council

May 15, 2019

City Attorney Lyndsey Olson

Immigrant Services Program Update

- \$100k allocated for immigrant services
- \$50k for beginning Immigrant Services Program
- \$50k approved by Council for JPA with Ramsey County for removal defense
 - Combined with \$100k from Ramsey County
 - Received one of 4 nationwide VERA grants. Matching grant totals \$250k for removal defense
 - VERA Grant restricts fund use to removal defense
 - JPA signed and approved in March 2019 (RES 19-342)
 - RFP in progress for selection of legal services organizations who will do the work

Immigrant Services Program Update

- **Press Release** - VERA will be doing a national press release in July
 - Although it is okay for us to share the news with our local community. The only other three jurisdictions to receive this catalyst \$100K funding are: Dallas, TX; Long Island, CA; and Philadelphia, PA – which means we are the only Midwest jurisdiction to receive this match.
- **Community Engagement**
 - Coordinating with Ramsey Co on community info sessions. Specifically, we want to engage with the community on the criteria that is important to them in administering the RFP.
 - **Managing Expectations of our funds** – VERA's match is restricted to those in removal proceedings and our application mirrors this priority. Given the number of individuals unrepresented in removal proceedings in St. Paul and Ramsey County – this is a huge need in our community and thus should be the priority. However, I know that some needs from our community includes pre- or post-removal relief (reopening cases, appeals, past removal orders, TPS, Deferred Action, etc.) that may not qualify for our defense fund. It will be important for us to message this and set expectations.
 - **Priority Intake and Consults** – we are already getting phone calls about accessing the immigration defense fund. One factor that will be important to us in selecting our legal service provider(s) is that Ramsey County and St. Paul residents are prioritized in the intake process.

Immigrant Services Program Update

CAO Immigrant Services Program Attorney
Edmundo Lijo, Esq.



- Bachelor's Degree Columbia University, New York
- JD University of Minnesota.

With more than 25 years experience, I have developed a diverse practice in the area of U.S. Immigration and Nationality Law representing corporations, non-profit organizations, religious organizations, and individuals before the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Prior to developing my private practice, I was an Assistant County Attorney representing the El Paso County Hospital District in El Paso, Texas, in the areas of healthcare law and employment law. As an Assistant County Attorney, I led the legal unit that serves the El Paso County Hospital District, which owns R.E. Thomason General Hospital, a public hospital on the U.S. , Mexican border. I have also served as an attorney with Centro Legal, Inc. in St. Paul, Minnesota, representing individuals before the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the U.S. State Department.

I am admitted to practice in the States of Minnesota, New Jersey, and Texas as well as the Third and Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Courts for Minnesota, New Jersey and the Western District of Texas. I am a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the past Chair of the Immigration Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association. I am fluent in Spanish.

****Start Date June 3, 2019**

Immigrant Services Program Update

What this Attorney will do:

- Work with City Attorney and Deputy City Attorney to identify Stakeholders within the City, conceptualize a proposal to present to City Stakeholders, and set priorities.
- Gather input from City Stakeholders, Community Partners, and Community Members and develop a strong plan that articulates the City's vision, goals, timelines and deadlines, identifies potential obstacles and strategies for overcoming those obstacles as well develops metrics for measuring success. This will be a community effort and Stakeholder and Community input and support are critical to the program's success
- Review/develop – Federal and State Legislative Agendas as they relate to refugees and immigrants and initiate lobbying efforts by identifying and monitoring legislation on the State and Federal Level. I would seek direction and approval from the Mayor and City Counsel and City Attorney in compliance with Chapter 45 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota to determine what lobbying efforts are appropriate.
- Review and understand the City's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan and how each of the Departments implements the Plan. Review – current services and understand how City services and information about those services are made available to everyone regardless of language barriers. Review and understand the City's translating and interpreting Services.

Immigrant Services Program Update

- Work with Networks such as Welcome America, Cities for Action, and Cities for Citizenship to review how other Cities across the United States have implemented and developed plans for serving their immigrant and refugee communities. By reviewing what has worked for other cities, we will be able to emulate and develop programming that works for Saint Paul.
- Develop and implement a cost-effective, City-wide Naturalization program that identifies Saint Paul's eligible Legal Permanent Resident Population, promotes public awareness of the benefits of citizenship and enables as many members of the immigrant and refugee community as possible to naturalize.
- Identify funding needs and funding sources – Develop a budget and search for grants that will fund the legal services and naturalization programs.
- While developing these programs, also work on the following:
 - Review of the City's Prosecution Process and determine how I can best assist with Immigration issues. Open a dialogue with the Ramsey County Attorney's Office to discuss their approach to Immigration Consequences of Criminal Prosecution. Develop and provide in-house training/CLE on Immigration Law.
 - Monitor and Review pending Immigration Litigation that may impact the City.
 - Develop lines of communication that updates the Immigrant and Refugee Community on developments in Immigration Law and gathers feedback on how the City can assist community members. This may include conducting Town Hall Meetings for immigrant and refugee communities, and the development of webpages and other written materials specifically directed to the needs of the immigrant and Refugee Communities.

Neighborhood Justice Program Update

- Listening Sessions

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|----------|---------|---------------|-------------------------|
| • Ward 1 | June 3 | 5pm-7pm | Wilder Foundation |
| • Ward 3 | June 4 | 5pm-7pm | Gloria Dei Church |
| • Ward 4 | June 13 | 5pm-7pm | Saint Anthony Library |
| • Ward 7 | June 18 | 5pm-7pm | Sunray Library |
| • Ward 5 | June 25 | 5pm-7pm | Rice Street Library |
| • Ward 6 | June 26 | 5:30pm-7:30pm | Arlington Community Ctr |
| • Ward 2 | June 27 | 5pm-6:30pm | Riverview Library |

SPCAO NEIGHBORHOOD JUSTICE PROGRAM PILOT IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Deadlines for grants we are seeking:

Otto Bremer Trust - June 27, 2019

St. Paul Foundation Grant – Building Community - May 14, 2019 and July 9, 2019

St. Paul Foundation Grant – Management Improvement Fund – 7/17/2019 and August 20, 2019

McKnight Foundation Grants – April 15, 2019, July 15, 2019 and October 15, 2019

Bush Foundation, Headwaters Foundation for Justice (up to \$10,000) – May 2019

Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grants (up to \$200,000) - rolling application, no deadline

FEB 28-JUL 1
Stakeholder conversations *

community conversations

Volunteer trainings

Service provider outreach

Case Referrals

Week of SEPT 3
NJP GO
LIVE DATE
FOR 1st NJP
Circle

Rec in process for
Paralegal NJP Administrator Hire

NJP Announced at
MC3 State of City

Budget determined
Through RFP process
Locations for
pilot NJP sites
reserved

Restorative Justice
Contract in place for
Pilot training and
admin support

Service provider
outreach and coord.
begins

Volunteer
trainings start

CAO begins
referral of cases
to NJP

Service provider
partners in place
(continuing work)

*List of Stakeholders

- City stakeholders
- Justice partners
- Community member conversations (by ward)
- Business Assoc.
- District councils
- Colleges and law schools



Questions?