

Whereas, These legal representation rates signify the people who are forced to defend themselves from deportation without the assistance of an attorney, dramatically decreasing the likelihood of a positive outcome. As of the most recently available data from September 2018 in Ramsey County, approximately twenty-nine percent of 957 pending cases are not represented by an attorney, leaving 283 Ramsey County residents to represent themselves in court (\leq <http://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/addressrep/>);

Whereas, The City of Saint Paul is the largest municipality within Ramsey County, and is the home to an important proportion of immigrants and refugees vulnerable to immigration proceedings. As of the most recently available data from September 2018 for the City of Saint Paul, 208 of the 707 pending cases are unrepresented, leaving these 208 Saint Paul residents to represent themselves in court (\leq <http://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/addressrep/>);

WHEREAS, The City of Saint Paul is committed to engaging the community and building trust across public services to ensure that long-term community prosperity is shared by all, and find that ensuring public safety requires that people including their family members and friends feel welcome and safe;

WHEREAS, The City of Saint Paul finds that providing immigrant and refugee legal services will stabilize families and community, encourage civil engagement and commitment, and improve the economic potential of immigrants and refugees;

WHEREAS, This Joint Powers Agreement will allow the City of Saint Paul to further collaborate with Ramsey County to improve the safety and stability of Saint Paul residents; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves execution of the Joint Powers Agreement for Immigrant and Refugee Services attached to this resolution.