



Memorializing Resolution of the City Council - #0008-2024

Sponsored by: **Miguel A. Melendéz, Jr.**, President/At-Large Representative;

Co-Sponsored by: **Mary Lupien**, East District Representative; and **Stanley Martin**, At-large Representative

February 20, 2024

To The Honorable
Rochester City Council
30 Church Street
Rochester, New York 14614

RE: Memorializing the New York State Governor and the State Legislature to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the right to legal counsel in immigration court proceedings (S999A/A170A)

Honorable Council Members:

I ask you to join me by signing your name on this Memorializing Resolution – asking the New York State Governor and the State Legislature to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the right to legal counsel in immigration court proceedings (S999A/A170A) – and, in doing so, to collectively **State and Resolve:**

WHEREAS, we have recently seen an increase in asylum seekers in our region; and

WHEREAS, many of our community based legal services providers have been overwhelmed and continue to be so as they support the communities that have been here and the additional needs from recent arrivals; and

WHEREAS, there is Legislation currently under consideration in Albany (S999A/A170A) that would remedy this situation; and

WHEREAS, these important Bills already have the support of many members in our local Rochester Delegation to the State Legislature (Senators Cooney and Brouk as well as Assembly Members Meeks and Clark); and

WHEREAS, were this legislation enacted it will ensure funding for legal services providers across the state that support migrant and asylum seeking communities; and

WHEREAS, this legislation also has a plan for the retention and recruitment of immigration attorneys and support staff to the various regions of our State; and

WHEREAS, the need for this legislation is urgent, which has been most notable of late with large numbers of migrants seeking asylum throughout New York State; and

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WHEREAS, Rochester has long been a “Sanctuary City” where we value, support and embrace immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, we believe the passage of this legislation will allow all us to collectively live up to the promise our State has always historically held up for so many seeking freedom and as set forth in New York’s Harbor by the Statue of Liberty’s promise:

“Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the undersigned Members of the Rochester City Council, therefore urge the New York State Governor and the State Legislature to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the right to legal counsel in immigration court proceedings (S999A/A170A).

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr., President
At-Large



Mary Lupien, Councilmember
East District



Stanley Martin, Councilmember
At-Large

Attachment

RE: Memorializing the New York State Governor and the State Legislature to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the right to legal counsel in immigration court proceedings (S999A/A170A)

The following Councilmembers join their colleagues in support of Memorializing Resolution 0008-24:



Willie Lightfoot, Councilmember
At-Large Representative



Bridget Monroe, Councilmember
Northwest District



Mitch Gruber, Councilmember
At-Large Representative



Kim Smith, Councilmember
At-Large Representative