

February 10, 2021

WHEREAS, fostering a welcoming environment for all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity or place of origin, enhances the City of Dallas' (Dallas) cultural fabric, economic growth, global competitiveness and overall prosperity for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Dallas is a city in which diversity is acknowledged, celebrated and harnessed to improve the social, economic and cultural opportunities of all residents; and

WHEREAS, Dallas is a city where nearly one in four residents was born in another country and where immigrants represented 41 percent of the demographic growth between 2011 and 2016, and has established the Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs Division to promote and advance the economic, cultural and social engagement of immigrants and refugees in Dallas; and

WHEREAS, immigrants in Dallas contribute to the local and state economy across a wide variety of industries and sectors and represent nearly 31 percent of the working age population in the city; and

WHEREAS, Dallas is actively working across all sectors to establish a local welcoming framework to integrate and include immigrants in all aspects of city life; and

WHEREAS, Dallas is partnering with leaders, and representatives of local government, businesses, nonprofit agencies, philanthropic enterprises, academia, service providers, faith-based groups and first responders to build awareness of the benefits of being a welcoming community; and

WHEREAS, Dallas' efforts that promote understanding and collaboration between long-time residents and foreign-born community members are crucial to ensuring a welcoming environment; and

WHEREAS, deportations have markedly increased in the last decades and the Dallas enforcement area of United States (U.S.) Immigration and Customs Enforcement has the highest rates of apprehension nationally; and

WHEREAS, many of these apprehensions lead to individuals being placed in removal proceedings in Dallas and many have lived in the U.S. for lengthy periods of time and many are parents or caregivers of U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that access to counsel has a profound positive impact on those who are represented; and

February 10, 2021

WHEREAS, studies have shown that there is detrimental effect of deportation not only on the individual deported but also on the families and communities the individual is forced to leave behind; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that family members who are left behind suffer multiple psychosocial consequences and that the separation of a child from a parent due to deportation is associated with economic hardship, housing instability, and food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, children in mixed-status families, irrespective of immigration status, experience fear and shame regarding deportation which impacts their sense of self and well-being; and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2018, City Council adopted as a reference and guide the recommendations of the Welcoming Plan Task Force in the Welcoming Plan by Resolution No. 18-1520; and

WHEREAS, a stated recommendation of the Welcoming Plan is to partner with philanthropic organizations to provide civil immigration services and rights information programs; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2019, City Council authorized a Safe Network Agreement with Vera Institute of Justice, Inc. (Vera) committing (1) the City to remit \$100,000.00 in funding to Vera for representation of Dallas residents before the Executive Office of Immigration Review; (2) Vera to remit a matching catalyst grant of \$100,000.00 to the selected non-profit legal service provider; and (3) Vera to provide in-kind support including the selection of a non-profit legal services provider in Dallas recognized to practice before the Immigration Court, training and technical assistance, data collection, reporting, program monitoring, and communications assistance by Resolution No. 19-0901; and

WHEREAS, Vera continues to be the only organization to offer in-kind technical assistance and training for immigration legal services to municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that this civil immigration legal services initiative benefits an especially vulnerable segment of the public and is for the public purpose of increasing the public health, safety, and welfare of all persons in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the civil immigration legal services initiative is aligned with strategic priorities identified by City Council, including (1) Human and Social Needs as a Strategic Priority and (2) the City's "Dallas Resilience" report; and

February 10, 2021

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2020, City Council authorized FY 2020-21 funding for Welcoming Communities Immigrant Affairs Division's operating budget via the annual Operating and Capital Budgets' Appropriation Ordinance by Ordinance No. 31655.

Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a Safe Network Agreement with the Vera Institute of Justice, Inc., approved as to form by the City Attorney, to administer the civil immigration legal services initiative and to provide in-kind infrastructure support including training and technical assistance, data collection, reporting, program monitoring, and communications assistance, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, for the period September 16, 2020 through September 15, 2022.

SECTION 2. That the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to disburse funds in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 to Vera Institute of Justice, Inc., in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract from General Fund, Fund 0001, Department MGT, Unit 4245, Object 3099, Vendor VC20163.

SECTION 3. That this contract shall comply with federal and state law regarding immigration including but not limited to Texas Senate Bill 4, Act of May 3, 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., ch. 4, § 1.01, 2017 Tex. Gen. Laws 7 s Government Code, (including Chapter 752; art. 2.251 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure) and may not impede or materially limit federal officers from performing their official duties under federal immigration law and shall not otherwise prohibit or materially limit the enforcement of immigration laws.

SECTION 4. That this contract is designated as Contract No. FHO-2021-00015608.

SECTION 5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.