

PAIFUP

*News from the fight for freedom, safety and dignity for all immigrants
detained or facing deportation in Pennsylvania.*

March 2024 | Issue 3

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2 CLIENTS RELEASED

4 NEW CLIENTS

10 HEARINGS

What's Happening?

In March PAIFUP secured the release of 2 community members thanks to the efforts of our legal services and community partners. Please read our client success stories below.

This month we are showcasing the client stories from both releases.

Check out a below, articles from among the PA immigrant community.

Client Success: X

PAIFUP celebrates the release of Client X. Client X was detained by an Erie, PA police officer. Based on appearance, this was an unlawful traffic stop. At the time, X was driving himself and 2 of his friends. The officer held all 3 until an ICE van arrived. They were sent to an ICE station where they were questioned for about eight hours.

They were then locked up in the county prison for 5 days. Afterwards they were sent to the Moshannon Valley Processing Center, an ICE detention facility. Casa San Jose from Pittsburgh were made aware of this pick up and referred the individual to PAIFUP. Client X did not have a criminal record and during the bond hearing the Judge recognized that it was an unlawful arrest. The judge then granted bond for \$3,000 which allowed X to be released.

Client Success: L

In July 2023, L was detained by DHS at Moshannon Valley, after criminal charges were filed against him. He retained private counsel, who withdrew on the day of his master calendar hearing. L was then ordered removed that same day, after the Judge denied his request for a continuance to seek new counsel. This removal order came even after L told the Judge that he was engaged and intended to marry a United States Citizen.

Despite this, the Judge did not afford him any time to seek counsel to discuss his options, even though his case had only been opened two weeks prior. L contacted our office and we entered an appeal on his behalf. That appeal was denied and a Motion to Reopen his case remains pending at this time. In the meantime, L married his wife, who filed an I-130 on his behalf. After a release request was made to ERO, all criminal charges filed against

him were dismissed. On March 20, L was released to his wife. We will continue to advocate for L and are grateful that he is reunited with his loved ones after spending 9 months in detention.

In Other News



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement rolling out bodycams to agents in Philly, 4 other cities

"This is also an important step to further build public trust and confidence in our dedicated and professional law enforcement officials," acting ICE Director Patrick J. Lechleitner said.

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Irish heritage is part of the fabric of Pittsburgh

They left Ireland for greener pastures. By 1850, 10,000 Irish immigrants were living in Pittsburgh. They settled in three neighborhoods - Downtown, the Strip District and the Hill District - according to Anne Madarasz, chief historian for the Senator John Heinz History Center.

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Amid migrant surge, immigrants' children in Philly are helping kids at Texas border

Kids at Mighty Writers' South Philly know what it's like to find yourself in a new country. So they're sending treats and toys to migrant children.

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[Catch up on the previous issue here!](#)

Questions? Comments? News worth sharing? Send **Yomayra Burgos**, our PAIFUP coordinator, an email at yburgos@pirclaw.org.

The Pennsylvania Immigrant Family Unity Project (PAIFUP) is a collaborative of nonprofit organizations in Pennsylvania formed in order to achieve universal representation for detained immigrants facing removal proceedings in PA.

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