



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR
SOMERVIVA: OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

MARIA TERESA NAGEL
DIRECTOR

MEREDITH GAMBLE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND LANGUAGE JUSTICE COORDINATOR

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

Re: Item # 23-0487. Requesting the appropriation of \$50,000 from the Immigrant Legal Services Stabilization Fund for legal services for immigrants and asylum seekers seeking permanent residency.

Honorable City Council,

During October of 2022, and with the approval of City Council, we established the Legal Services Stabilization Fund (ILSSF) with the purpose of affording Somerville's immigrant residents the opportunity to consult with a licensed, competent immigration attorney and covering the cost of legal representation if, upon consultation, a viable path to permanent residency is determined. Through items number 22-1672 and 22-1670 we appropriated and transferred, respectively, \$60,000 from SomerViva: Office of Immigrant Affairs's General Fund to the ILSSF. We also requested a supplemental appropriation of \$50,000 through item 22-1889 for the ILSSF, which this City Council graciously approved. Nevertheless, the \$50,000 was never appropriated from the ILSSF to be used for the provision of legal services.

Item 23-0487 looks to appropriate the \$50,000 from the ILSSF to pay for legal services for immigrants and asylum seekers who are at risk of deportation due to their precarious immigration status.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Maria Teresa Nagel
Director
SomerViva: Office of Immigrant Affairs
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