

# PAIFUP

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

June 2021 | Issue 14

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## June Recap

1 CLIENT RELEASED

3 NEW CLIENTS

10 HEARINGS

**PAIFUP was shocked to learn that York County Prison, the largest ICE detention center in the state, will no longer house ICE detainees.** Our hope is that many individuals will get released instead of transferred, but ICE has already started transferring many out of state. We have been working alongside community partners to advocate for the release of the immigrants that remain. Learn how you can get involved below!

Our focus now is on creating a pathway forward since most of our clients were held at York County Prison. **We are optimistic about our future as we secured additional funding from the city of Philadelphia for next year.** We are honored to have the capacity to work alongside more immigrants.

## Client Success: Paul



Paul is a 66-year old man who came to the United States on a work visa from Jamaica in 1977 to join his mother and stepfather. He has lived in Philadelphia for over 40 years, and is a staple in his community—mentoring kids and helping his neighbors as a handyman. His mother filed an I-130 family-based petition for him, which was approved in 1980, but Paul did not have the funds to apply to adjust his status to that of a lawful permanent resident and so an Immigration Judge found his application

had been abandoned and ordered him deported.

After many years, Paul was able to reopen his case, and PAIFUP began representing him and helped him to file an application for adjustment of status. After many motions, ICE detention, appeals, rescheduled hearings, and a very lengthy court hearing, Paul was granted adjustment of status in April 2021 and received his green card in June 2021. He is now a lawful permanent resident, 44 years after coming to the United States. Paul wept tears of joy and relief as the judge gave the decision granting his case, with his PAIFUP attorney by his side. Paul told his PAIFUP attorney that he finally felt free and that without our help he didn't think he would have had the will to persevere through this process. He said, "You are just the best." Paul hopes to marry his long-term partner and move to Florida with her and his elderly mother. He now feels free from the burden of deportation hanging over his head for over 40 years.

**Stronger Together: Meet Our Affiliates**



The Pennsylvania Court Appointed Special Advocates Association (PA CASA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1998 to grow, strengthen, and unite local CASA programs so they can ensure the safety, well-being, and forever home for every abused and/or neglected child in Pennsylvania. [Learn more about their work here.](#)

## Release Not Transfer

Here are two ways to get involved in the efforts to free our community members in detention at the York County Prison before they are transferred away from their communities and loved ones.

1. Donate to these bond funds to secure the immediate release of individuals unable to afford their bond.
2. Join our community partners in calling and emailing government officials to demand the release of our community members.

[Find more details here!](#)

CASA SAN JOSÉ  
<https://casasanjose.org/welcome-to-casa-san-jose/donate/>  
\*\*Select "Fondo Solidario Bond Fund"\*\*\*

NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT  
<https://www.sanctuaryphiladelphia.org/campaigns/community-fund/>

PARISH RESOURCE CENTER  
<https://parishresourcecenter.org/community-initiatives/immigration/>

THANK YOU COMMUNITY!

NMLPA aau

RELEASE OUR LOVED ONES  
**PHONE ZAP**

JULY 13 AND 15  
3-5 PM ET ON ZOOM

Register here:  
[bit.ly/rolophonezap](https://bit.ly/rolophonezap)

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## In Other News



### Philadelphia Schools Adopt 'Sanctuary' Schools

The Philadelphia school board unanimously voted to adopt a "welcoming sanctuary schools" resolution, promising more training for staff on how to respond to ICE officials and assuring safety from



### Pennsylvania Democrats unite to discuss immigration reform

The New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia hosted a town hall on a potential pathway to citizenship for millions



### Biden Will End Detention for Most Pregnant Immigrants

Like the president's other immigration policies, the protections could disappear under a future administration because they are not

immigration authorities  
while at school.

[Read more  
www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)

of undocumented  
immigrants.

[Read more  
aldianews.com](http://aldianews.com)

being created through  
legislation.

[Read more  
www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

Catch up on the previous issue here

Questions? Comments? News worth sharing? Send Karina, our PAIFUP coordinator, an email at [ksuarez@pirclaw.org](mailto:ksuarez@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 in removal proceedings in PA.