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DATE: September 8, 2011

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Buroughs, Commissioner of Planning
Diane G. Balistreri, Coordinator, Office for Women

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing an exemption from the County of Westchester Procurement Policy and Procedures for an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income households in need of eviction protection, pursuant to Section 3(a)xxi of the Westchester County Procurement Policy

The attached resolution authorizes an exemption from the County of Westchester Procurement Policy and Procedures for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) to provide funding for the provision of legal services to eligible low income households in need of eviction protection. For many years, the County of Westchester has retained Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income households in need of eviction protection. LSHV will provide at least 210 households with eviction prevention services to prevent homelessness and the need for additional public assistance. Many of these households are incurring rental obligations that exceed their housing allowances provided to them by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. The agreement will be in the not-to-exceed amount of \$343,223.00 pursuant to an approved budget, of which \$308,923.00 will be paid by the Planning Department and \$34,300.00 will be paid by the Office for Women as per the Board of Legislators authorization.

The Department is requesting an exemption because Legal Services of the Hudson Valley has been providing legal eviction prevention services to low income residents, with County funding, since 1998. The majority of their clients receive public assistance benefits, while other clients receive benefits from other governmental agencies, such as Medicaid and the Veteran's Administration. The variety of issues that need to be addressed, as well as the number of housing court locations that may require attendance at the same time, require that these services must be provided by an agency with capacity, expertise and a local presence. LSHV has the requisite expertise and capacity to address the variety of housing issues in their 7 locations; 3 are in more urban areas where most of the multi-family buildings are located (White Plains, Yonkers and Mount Vernon) and are easily accessible to its clients and adequate to handle simultaneous court appearances in various locations.

In light of the above facts, it is proposed that the best interest of the County would be served by exempting this agreement from the procedures of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof. Accordingly, a resolution to exempt this procurement is hereby submitted for your consideration.

EB/cp
Attachment

RESOLUTION

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING AND THE COORDINATOR OF THE OFFICE FOR WOMEN BE IT HEREBY

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, it is hereby determined that application of the procedural requirements contained therein, including the necessity of soliciting proposals, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly not in the best interests of the County in connection with the procurement of an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income households in need of eviction protection.

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APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 09/29/2011 - JOMAR VILERA, SECRETARY