

21426

To: Honorable Members
Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kunjlata Ashar, M.D., Acting Pathologist / Medical Examiner
Department of Labs and Research

Date: August 31, 2011

Re: **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$267,323 IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORENSIC CASEWORK DNA BACKLOG REDUCTION PROGRAM FROM OCTOBER 1, 2011 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2013**

Authority of your Honorable Board is hereby requested for the County of Westchester (the "County") acting by and through its Department of Labs and Research (the "Department") to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Justice ("the "USDOJ") to accept Federal funds in an amount not to exceed \$267,323 for the Department to participate in the Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program from October 1, 2011 through March 31, 2013 (the "Agreement").

The Agreement has the public purpose of promoting public safety for the residents of the County by enhancing DNA analysis thereby expediting criminal case processing.

The goals and objectives of this program are to provide the County's law enforcement community with increased output and faster turnaround of the evidence submitted to the Division of Forensic Sciences. Faster turnaround and its related reduction of backlogged cases will allow user agencies to investigate crimes in a more efficient and timely manner and provide the County's citizens with a higher degree of public safety.

Elements of this program provide for funding to cover the purchase of an automated DNA Extraction robot which will allow for more rapid recovery of DNA from biological evidence submitted to the laboratory. This robot eliminates the need to conduct time consuming manual extractions and allows for multiple samples to be examined simultaneously.

Other funded items include supplies to conduct DNA analysis including those needed to support the requested extraction robot. Grant funds will pay for several service contracts to provide for the repair and maintenance of equipment used in the DNA laboratory. In addition funding will cover training for lab personnel. This training exposes analysts to new technologies which are aimed at increasing the efficiency of the laboratory while reducing costs. This grant also funds 2 temporary lab technician positions. These technicians will assist laboratory staff in preparing reagents and maintaining equipment in the laboratory.

Success in fulfilling the goals and objectives of this grant is spelled out in semi-annual reports provided to the granting authority.

The Federal funds enable the Department of Laboratories and Research to purchase laboratory and computer equipment as well as training and travel expenses. No County funds are required for the operation of this program.

MJH/WF/cji

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Acting Pathologist / Medical Examiner of the Department of Labs and Research, be it hereby:

RESOLVED, that County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Justice in an amount not to exceed \$267,323 in Federal funds for the Department of Laboratories and Research to participate in the Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program from October 1, 2011 through March 31, 2013.

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby empowered to execute all documents and take all necessary actions to effectuate the purpose hereof.

Account to be Charged/credited	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
	263	31	860L	9852	T860	\$267,323

Budget Funding Year(s) 2011-2013 Start Date 10/1/11 End Date 3/31/13
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars _____
 State Aid _____
 \$ 267,323 Federal Aid _____
 (must match resolution) Other Revenue – Federal Grant _____

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/20/2011 - SONIA VIEIRA, SECRETARY