

28717

To: Honorable Members
Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

Date: August 15, 2012

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 OCTOBER 1, 2012 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2014**

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, 2012 through March 31, 2014 (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.

Funded items include supplies to conduct DNA analysis and equipment that will assist in DNA extractions from crime scene samples. In addition, quality control temperature probes will be purchased to monitor the temperature of various devices used to process DNA evidence. The grant will pay for computer tablets to help eliminate paper worksheets currently used to record information associated with DNA cases. As well as reducing paper and printing costs the tablets will allow for more rapid entry of information into our Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). Grant funds will pay for several service contracts to provide for the repair and maintenance of equipment used in the DNA laboratory. Funding will also cover training costs for DNA 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, maintaining equipment in the laboratory and performing various quality assurance functions.

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

I certify that my department, a) has copies of, or access to, all applicable laws, rules, regulations, grant applications, and grant agreements (including any master grant agreement), as well as any guidance or instructions received from the agency making the grant (the "Grant Terms"), b) has reviewed the Grant Terms, c) is aware of and understands all of the Grant Terms, and d) can and will comply with all of the Grant Terms.

An appropriate resolution is herewith attached for your Honorable Board's consideration.

KA/WF

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is 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, 2012 through March 31, 2014 and be it further

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	860M	9852	T860	\$267,323

Budget Funding Year(s) 2012-2014 Start Date 10/1/12 End Date 3/31/14
 (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 - 01/09/2012 - SONARY WEIRA, SECRETARY