

41806

DATE: August 12, 2014

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Buroughs
Commissioner of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing an exemption from the County of Westchester Procurement Policy and Procedures for an agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. to provide affirmatively further fair housing Outreach and Education in Westchester County, pursuant to section 3(a)xxi of the Westchester County procurement policy

Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (WRO) has a 46-year track record of success in administering fair housing education and activities, and remains the only nonprofit housing agency doing fair housing work in Westchester County. WRO is a HUD-Certified Housing Counseling and Fair Housing Agency with extensive experience in administering Fair Housing Programs in the County. They are able to reach a large target audience and are qualified to promote housing rights for all protected classes. No other local agency provides the same breadth of services as WRO.

Ordinarily, Section 5(a) of the Procurement Policy requires the County to issue a Request for Proposals in order to procure this type of service. However, pursuant to Section 3(a) xii, the Procurement Policy is not applicable to any procurement for which this Honorable Board determines, by resolution passed prior to commencing such procurement, that compliance with the policy would not be in the best interest of the County. The Department of Planning proposes to retain the services of WRO to conduct an extensive education and outreach program throughout the County to affirmatively further fair and affordable housing as set forth in the Westchester County Housing Settlement Agreement. WRO will provide an Outreach and Education Program that will include educating, Real-Estate professionals, housing providers, community members and Local Municipal leaders about fair housing laws and their obligation and the benefits of diverse and inclusive communities. The amount of the agreement shall not exceed \$60,000.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget, and the term of the agreement is October 1, 2014, to December 31, 2015.

Based upon the foregoing facts, it would be in the best interest of the County of Westchester to retain Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (WRO) to provide affirmatively further fair housing Outreach and Education in Westchester County.

A separate resolution of even date requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., for the above-mentioned services is being submitted for your approval.

I recommend approval of this exemption.

EB/cp

Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 09/04/2014 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING, 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 procedure requirements contained therein, including the necessity of soliciting proposals, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly, not in the best interest of the County in conjunction with the procurement of an agreement with the Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (WRO), to provide affirmatively further fair housing Outreach and Education throughout Westchester County.

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APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 09/04/2014 - JONAS VITTA, SECRETARY