

[66488]

DATE: December 6, 2018

TO: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Evan Latainer
Director, Office for People with Disabilities

RE: Resolution to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof all agreements between the County of Westchester and sign language interpreters whereby various sign language interpreters will provide sign language interpretation services for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for a total aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$7,500.00

Authority of your Honorable Board is hereby requested, for the County of Westchester (the "County") acting by and through its Office for People with Disabilities (the "Office") to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, all sign language interpretation agreements for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, in a total aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$7,500.00.

Price competition does not exist, as the current rate set by the County of \$65.00 per hour paid to all sign language interpreters who hold a contract with the County is below the standard market rate compared to other institutions throughout the County ranging from \$70.00 to \$125.00 per hour as follows: Mercy College pays as low as \$70.00 per hour and up, depending on the level of the interpreter's skill set, Monroe College pays \$80.00 per hour and up, and ACCES-VR pays \$72.00 per hour and up. The Office advertises the opportunity to become a sign language interpreter on its website.

The Office offers all sign language interpreters the opportunity to obtain a contract with the County for sign language interpreter services. The website for the Office advertises that this opportunity is open to all sign language interpreters.

Pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi), the Westchester County 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 interests of the County. For the reasons set forth above, it is proposed that the best interest of the County would be service by exempting the procurement of the proposed agreement from the County's Procurement Policy.

Accordingly, I recommend and urge your Honorable Board's approval of the annexed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Office for People with Disabilities, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, 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 of Westchester in connection with the procurement of agreements with sign language interpreters for the provision of sign language interpretation services for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 in a total aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$7,500.00.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTS, 01/03/2019, LISA MARIJAJ, SECRETARY