

79992

October 5, 2020

TO: Honorable Members
Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Thomas A. Gleason
Acting Commissioner-Sheriff
Department of Public Safety

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the State of New York, acting by and through its Division of Criminal Justice Services, pursuant to which the County of Westchester will accept a grant in an amount of \$264,805.00 in State funds for its, Department of Public Safety to participate in the Aid to Crime Labs Program, for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, pursuant to an approved budget.

Authority is hereby sought for the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Public Safety ("Department"), to enter into an agreement ("Grant Agreement") with the State of New York ("State"), acting by and through its Division of Criminal Justice Services ("DCJS"), pursuant to which the County will accept a grant in an amount of \$264,805.00 ("Grant") in State funds for the Department to participate in the Aid to Crime Labs Program, for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, pursuant to an approved budget.

The Grant will be used by the Department to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, reliability and accuracy of its criminal laboratory services. Funding will be applied towards, among other things, costs associated with personnel, fringe benefits, overtime, equipment, travel and supplies.

The Grant Agreement will require the County to indemnify the State as follows:

"The [County] shall be solely responsible and answerable in damages for any and all accidents and/or injuries to persons (including death) or property arising out of or related to the services to be rendered by the [County] or its subcontractors pursuant to this [Grant Agreement]. The [County] shall indemnify and hold harmless the State and its officers and employees from claims, suits, actions, damages and cost of every nature arising out of the provision of services pursuant to the [Grant Agreement]."

The Grant Agreement will serve a public purpose by improving the quality and timeliness of forensic services provided to local law enforcement agencies.

The goals and objectives of this Grant Agreement are to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, reliability and accuracy of the County's criminal laboratory services by improving the County crime lab's ability to provide timely forensic services through increased analytical capacity and maintain laboratory accreditation.

Acceptance of the Grant funds is in the best interests of the County because equipment purchased and personnel costs expended with the Grant funds will enable the crime lab to maintain its accreditation, without which local law enforcement agencies would be forced to farm out their work to other crime labs which would delay criminal investigations and subsequently criminal prosecutions.

Acceptance of the Grant funds will increase safety and security in the County because a more efficient crime lab will be able to deliver faster, more reliable and more accurate forensic services which will aid law enforcement in apprehending criminals faster, thus making the streets safer for County residents.

The performance measures and monitoring of this Grant will be reported to DCJS by the Department using the Grant Gateway System. During the period of this Grant, the Department will maintain the assignment of a Detective serving the Department as an Accredited Forensic Examiner. The Department will continue to provide DCJS with Accreditation Documentation along with narrative descriptions of how Grant funds were used to support Laboratory Accreditation.

Grant funds from the prior Aid to Crime Labs grant year were utilized as follows: salary and fringe benefits for one of the detectives assigned to the Firearms Examination section of the lab; overtime reduced forensic case backlog and supported ANAB and NYSDCJS Commission on Forensic Science Accreditation.

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.

Approval of your Honorable Board of the Grant Agreement with the State to accept Aid to Crime Labs Program grant funds in the sum of \$264,805.00 is recommended and an appropriate resolution is attached for your consideration.

MJM/LKC/sgcmc
Attachment

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Acting Commissioner-Sheriff of Public Safety, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is authorized to enter into an agreement with the State of New York, acting by and through its Division of Criminal Justice Services, pursuant to which the County will accept a grant in an amount of \$264,805.00 in State funds for the Department of Public Safety to participate in the Aid To Crime Labs Program for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, pursuant to an approved budget; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the agreement will also require the County to indemnify the New York State, follows:

"The [County] shall be solely responsible and answerable in damages for any and all accidents and/or injuries to persons (including death) or property arising out of or related to the services to be rendered by the [County] or its subcontractors pursuant to this [Grant Agreement]. The [County] shall indemnify and hold harmless the State and its officers and employees from claims, suits, actions, damages and cost of every nature arising out of the provision of services pursuant to the [Grant Agreement]."

and it is further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to enter into this agreement for the County of Westchester

Account to be Charged/Credited

| Fund | Dept | Major Program, Program & Phase or Unit | Object/ Sub-Object | Trust Account | Dollars |
|------|------|--|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 263 | 38 | 704V | 9854 | T704 | \$264,805 |
| | | | | | |

Budget Funding Year(s) 2020-2021 Start Date: July 1, 2020 End Date: June 30, 2021
 (must match resolution) Tax Dollars -0-
 Funding Source State Aid \$264,805
 Federal Aid: _____
\$264,805
 (must match resolution) Other: _____