

April 16, 2010

TO: The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin J. Plunkett
Deputy County Executive

RE: **Resolution to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy the procurement of a contract for services with the Animal Welfare League of Westchester County, Inc. in connection with the County's obligation to utilize dog license fees to subsidize public humane education programs in responsible dog ownership in an amount not to exceed Fourteen Thousand (\$14,000) Dollars, commencing March 15, 2010 and expiring March 14, 2011.**

For more than twenty (20) years, the County of Westchester (the "County") has contracted with the Animal Welfare League of Westchester County, Inc. (the "League") to provide a public humane education program in responsible dog ownership. Contracting with the League for the education program has permitted the County to fulfill its obligation pursuant to Section 111 of the New York Agriculture and Markets Law (the "Law") to utilize monies received from dog license fees for the purposes specified therein. According to the Law, the County receives a portion of the dog license fees collected by its constituent municipalities. The Law requires that such monies be used, *inter alia*, for subsidizing "...public humane education programs in responsible dog ownership. . . ." Seventy-five percent (75%) of the monies not currently expended by the County for the purposes set forth in the Law must be returned to the constituent municipalities.

The League is a New York not-for-profit corporation, which arranges for spaying and neutering, education, pet adoption, emergency aid and numerous other services to benefit pets and their owners. The League is staffed primarily by volunteers and is supported by contributions from the public. As a result, the League can provide an extensive education program with a modest budget, i.e. Fourteen Thousand (\$14,000) Dollars for the period March 15, 2010 through March 14, 2011. This recommended contract amount is Two Thousand (\$2,000) Dollars less than the previous contract amount and is based upon the actual dog license fees collected by the County during the past contract year. Based on the foregoing facts, it would be in the best interest of the County to continue the agreement with the League.

During the course of this agreement, the League will assist and/or provide at least two hundred sixty-eight (268) dog owners with free pet spaying and at least one thousand six hundred and ninety (1,690) pet owners with reduced cost spaying. The League will also assist at least six hundred thirty-five (635) needy pet owners in obtaining reduced veterinary bills through its outreach to local veterinarians and will provide at least four hundred twenty (420) pet food coupons to needy pet owners. The League will field at least one hundred fifteen (115) calls regarding lost pets and will assist in recovering at least thirty-five (35) of those lost pets through their pet locating service. The League will also provide information and referral services to at least two hundred twenty (220) residents regarding rabies, wildlife and pet concerns and animal cruelty, and will provide information and services to at least ninety-four (94) residents regarding prevention of cruelty to animals.

The League will submit quarterly statistical reports to the County as a basis for performance measurement.

The proposed agreement will serve the public interest by educating the public about the proper treatment of animals, including the need for spaying and neutering of pets, and the proper care and feeding of pets. The League assists residents who could not otherwise afford to keep their pets by providing pet food coupons and subsidizing the cost of spaying and neutering and other veterinary services. In addition, the League has successfully assisted many Westchester pet owners in locating their lost pets.

Given the past relationship and capable performance of the League, it is proposed that the best interests of the County would be served by exempting the procurement of an agreement with the League from the procedures of the County's Procurement Policy. A separate resolution seeking your Honorable Board's approval of the proposed agreement has not been submitted herewith as the agreement would be a "short form" contract. However it should be noted that the agreement will not be entered into unless your Honorable Board approves the attached resolution.

Accordingly, a resolution to exempt this agreement from procurement is hereby submitted for your consideration.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Deputy County Executive, it is 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 written quotations, is neither cost effective nor expedient and, accordingly, not in the best interest of the County in connection with the procurement of education services from the Animal Welfare League of Westchester County, Inc.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 4-29-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY