

14811

DATE: October 20, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Buroughs
Acting Commissioner, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution to exempt from the procedures of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income households in need of eviction protection, for the term January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, and for an amount not-to-exceed \$343,248.00

Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board to exempt from the procedures of the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income households in need of eviction protection for the term January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 and for an amount not-to-exceed \$343,248.00, pursuant to an approved budget.

The Department is requesting this exemption because economically it is in the best interests of the County for these low income households to have access to the legal assistance they need to stay in their homes. If such households lose their housing, most will either enter into the County's homeless shelter system or apply for other form(s) of public assistance. Legal Services of the Hudson Valley has been providing legal eviction prevention services to low income residents, with County funding, since 1998. The majority of their clients receive public assistance benefits, while other clients receive benefits from other governmental agencies, such as Medicaid and the Veteran's Administration. The variety of issues that need to be addressed, as well as the number of housing court locations that may require attendance at the same time, require that these services must be provided by an agency with capacity, expertise and a local presence. This agency has the expertise and experience to provide the appropriate services, the capacity to provide these services and they have the local offices to provide the services at locations that are easily accessible to those who need these services.

Therefore, it is proposed that the best interests of the County would be served by exempting this agreement from the procedures of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof. Accordingly, a resolution to exempt this procurement is hereby submitted for your consideration.

EB/dg/cp/cji
Attachment

RESOLUTION

Upon a Communication from the Acting Commissioner, Department 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 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 in connection with the procurement of an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income households in need of eviction protection.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 10-28-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY