

17446

To: Honorable Members
Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kunjlata Ashar, M.D.
Acting Medical Examiner

Date: February 24, 2011

Re: **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER TO EXTEND ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$257,283 IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORENSIC CASEWORK DNA BACKLOG REDUCTION PROGRAM FROM OCTOBER 1, 2009 TO MARCH 31, 2011 TO A NEW TERMINATION DATE OF JUNE 30, 2011 IN ORDER TO FULLY EXPEND THE GRANT FUNDS**

Authority of your Honorable Board is hereby requested for Westchester County acting through its Department of Labs and Research (the "Department") to amend its agreement with the United States Department of Justice ("the "USDOJ") to accept funds in an amount not to exceed \$257,283 in federal funds for the Department to participate in the Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program from October 1, 2009 through March 31, 2011 (the "Agreement"), by extending the term of the agreement to a new termination date of June 30, 2011 in order to fully expend the grant funds.

The contract has the public purpose of promoting public safety to the residents of Westchester by enhancing DNA analysis thereby expediting criminal case processing.

The goals and objectives of this program are to provide the law enforcement community of Westchester County with increased output and faster turnaround of the evidence submitted to the Division of Forensic Sciences. Faster turnaround and its related reduction of backlogged cases will allow user agencies to investigate crimes in a more efficient and timely manner and provide the citizens of Westchester County a higher degree of public safety. Elements of this program provide for funding to cover the purchase of a "DNA Expert System," a combination of a computer and specialized software which will allow for more rapid evaluation of DNA profiles. This removes a

time consuming aspect to data interpretation and allow for the faster turnaround of test results. This grant also funds a sperm extraction device which allows for the removal of spermatozoa from microscope slides in old unsolved cold cases, permitting the Department of Labs and Research to look at homicide and rape cases where the only potential DNA available is on microscope slides. Another item funded is a Real-Time PCR unit that allows the Department of Labs and Research to double its capacity to examine and quantify DNA evidence. Money for training exposes analysts to new technologies which are aimed at increasing the efficiency of the laboratory while reducing costs. The Agreement also provides funds for overtime for existing staff to address the backlog in cases created by the ever-growing demand for DNA analysis in investigations. This grant also funds a temporary lab technician position. This technician will prepare reagents and maintain equipment in the laboratory. Success in fulfilling the goals and objectives of this grant are spelled out in semi-annual reports provided to the granting authority.

The federal funds enable the Department of Laboratories and Research to purchase laboratory and computer equipment as well as training and travel expenses. No County funds are required for the operation of this program.

KA/mlg

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 3-18-2011 - JOMAR VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the acting Medical Examiner of the Department of Labs and Research, be it hereby:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Acquisition and Contract hereby authorizes the County of Westchester to extend the term of its agreement with the United States Department of Justice in an amount not to exceed \$257,283 in federal funds for the Department of Laboratories and Research to participate in the Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program from October 1, 2009 to March 31, 2011 to a new termination date of June 30, 2011, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby empowered to execute all documents and take all necessary actions to effectuate the purpose hereof.

Account to be Charged/credited	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
	263	31	860J	9852	T860	N/A

Budget Funding Year(s) 2009-2011 Start Date 10/1/09 End Date 6/30/11
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars _____
 State Aid _____
 \$ _____ Federal Aid _____
 (must match resolution) Other _____

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT #11-2011 - JOMARY VIEIRA SECRETARY