



**Office of the District Attorney
County of Westchester**

MEMORANDUM

March 10, 2011

17741

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Janet DiFiore
District Attorney

Re: Authority to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures agreements with the Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (Victims Assistance Services) ("WESTCOP") and My Sisters' Place ("MSP"), to operate the STOP Violence Against Women Collaborative Program for the period December 1, 2010 through November 30, 2011, pursuant to section 3(a)xxi thereof

Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy agreements with WESTCOP and MSP to operate the STOP Violence Against Women Collaborative Program (the "Program") for a term commencing on December 1, 2010 and continuing through November 30, 2011 in an aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$38,288, pursuant to an approved budget.

Ordinarily, under Section 5 of the Procurement Policy, the County is required to solicit written quotations from no fewer than three persons customarily providing such good or services, and, if deemed appropriate, inquire as to the qualifications and experience of such persons. However, both WESTCOP and MSP have been providing various support services to victims of domestic violence on behalf of the District Attorney's office for a number of years now. Significantly, these agencies provide an on-site presence within the same facility that houses the DA's Office and the Yonkers and Mount Vernon police departments. New contract agencies would not have office space within the same building as the District Attorney and police departments. Moreover, victims would not be able to meet with an advocate as expeditiously and it would be more difficult to address emergent safety needs. A continued coordinated community response to domestic violence increases offender accountability and victim safety. Finally, the Department of Justice, which funds this grant, requires community partnerships and such partners must operate agencies that meet very specific criteria. Both WESTCOP and MSP meet these criteria. Therefore it is in the best interest of Westchester County to continue our partnership with the above mentioned agencies in this important effort.

Pursuant to Section 3 (a) xxi, the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures (the "Procurement Policy") are not applicable to any procurement for which your 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 interests of the County would be served by exempting the procurement of these agreements from the Procurement Policy.

The overall goal of the Program is to reduce violence against women, female high school and college students as well as, women with other language, cultural and social barriers. Additionally, the project will strengthen and heighten the safety and security of women by providing direct support services to victims as well as training to police agencies and the community. The goals and objectives will be monitored by the

District Attorney's Office and quarterly progress reports will be submitted to DCJS for their review and approval.

Accordingly, a resolution to exempt the procurement of an agreement with WESTCOP and MSP is hereby submitted for your Honorable Board's consideration.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 3-24-2011 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon communication from Janet DiFiore, District Attorney, 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 price quotations, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly not in the best interest of the County, in connection with the procurement of agreements with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (Victims Assistance Services) and My Sisters' Place to operate the STOP Violence Against Women Collaborative Program.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 3-24-2011 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY