

20333

DATE July 11, 2011

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Buroughs
Commissioner, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing an Agreement between the County of Westchester and Legal Services of the Hudson Valley to provide legal services that will prevent the loss of affordable rental housing and to provide legal representation to tenants in subsidized housing complexes and to provide legal representation to the tenants of these subsidized housing complexes whose rights have been violated

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) to provide funding to prevent the loss of affordable housing rental units in multi-family dwellings. Legal Services of the Hudson Valley will work to prevent loss of affordable rental units where landlords/owners seek to opt out of affordable housing programs and to provide legal representation to tenants in subsidized housing complexes whose rights have been violated. The not-to-exceed amount is \$90,000.00, to be paid pursuant to an approved budget, and the term of the agreement is January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010.

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley helps the most vulnerable members of our communities - the poor and low income individuals and families, with free non-criminal legal counsel and representation to protect their basic necessities of life. These necessities include shelter, freedom from physical abuse, medical care and access to legal protections and supports that are guaranteed by law, but not always provided. For several years the County has retained LSHV to provide legal representation to eligible families to assist with housing resettlement and eviction prevention as well as to provide an attorney to advocate for preserving affordable housing within Westchester County. LSHV's housing representation and housing funding has been largely limited to cases where individuals or families are in imminent risk of losing housing.

In their previous agreement LSHV, met their goal of preserving affordable housing within Westchester County and developed a manual on affordable housing in the County. The 2010 agreement will include, but is not limited to, assisting 343 residents of the Riverview II housing complex in the City of Yonkers, assist 90 seniors who are disabled and reside at the Petrillo building in the City of Mount Vernon, assist the disabled and elderly residents of 755 Palisade in the City of Yonkers, assist County residents in jeopardy of eviction, provide legal representation at informal grievance hearings within city courts and advocate for maintenance of public housing tenancies in the City of Yonkers. The program will be monitored by the Department of Planning staff, who will review the payment request to make sure all contractual agreements are met.

Authority to exempt this agreement from the procedures of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, has been submitted to your Honorable Board in accordance with a separate resolution of even date herewith.

I recommend approval of this agreement.

EB/cp

Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 07/28/2011 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

R E S O L U T I O N

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING, BE IT HEREBY

RESOLVED: that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$90,000.00, for a term beginning January 1, 2010, and ending December 31, 2010, to provide legal services that will prevent loss of affordable rental units where landlords/owners seek to opt out of affordable housings programs and to provide legal representation to tenants in subsidized housing complexes whose rights have been violated, and be it further

RESOLVED: that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is authorized to execute any documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate purposes hereof.

Recommended for Approval:

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	19	19K003	6291	N/A	\$90,000.00

Budget Funding Year(s)
(must match resolution)

FY 2010 Start Date January 1, 2010 End Date December 31, 2010

Funding Source

Tax Dollars \$90,000.00

State Aid _____

\$90,000.00
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid _____

Other _____