

40647

Date: June 4, 2014

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kathleen M. O'Connor, Commissioner  
Parks, Recreation & Conservation

Kevin M. McGuire, Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

Re: Authority to enter into an agreement with Friends of Westchester County Parks, Inc. to provide for the operation and management of "Camp Morty", a sleep-away camp facility for Westchester's children between the ages of 8 and 15 who are under the care of the Department of Social Services, to be located at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, North Salem, New York

Up until fifteen years ago, the County, through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, as well as other organizations, provided children in Westchester County an opportunity for an extended sleep away camp experience in a natural setting at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park located in North Salem, New York. The camp facility at Mountain Lakes Park was closed due to deteriorating conditions and a lack of available resources. In 2007, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation utilized Blue Mountain Reservation to offer a similar sleep away camp experience for Westchester's children between the ages of 8 and 13 who were under the care of the Department of Social Services. In 2008, as a result of a successful capital improvement project, Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park was once again utilized as a sleep away camp.

The attached resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County to enter into an agreement with Friends of Westchester County Parks, Inc. ("Friends of Parks"), a not-for-profit corporation located at 450 Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley, New York 10502 to provide for the operation and management of a sleep away camp facility known as Camp Morty for the period June 27, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Funding for the operation and management of Camp Morty will be provided through the Westchester County Department of Social Services.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation will provide housing accommodations at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park for Camp Morty's staff and campers during the summer of 2014. Friends of Parks will provide supervision, supplies and staff. Programs and activities at Camp Morty include boating, fishing, swimming, arts and crafts, environmental education, sports and physical fitness, and team building utilizing the challenge ropes course. These activities will provide a positive outdoor experience for these children under the care of the Department of Social Services who would not otherwise have the

opportunity. In exchange for their operation and management of Camp Morty during 2014, the County will pay Friends of Parks \$475,000 in accordance with an approved budget.

The goal of this agreement is to help promote the public health of these boys and girls ages 8-15 who are under the care of the Department of Social Services, and offer them an opportunity to participate in a positive outdoor camping/recreational experience in a summer residential camp. Camp Morty provides a place where the County's most needy children can have a reprieve from their mostly urban homes. It also addresses the issue of the declining amount of time today's children spend exploring the wonders of nature. Each summer, Camp Morty will afford children the unique opportunity to grow and expand their horizons in a natural setting while at the same time encourage curiosity, physical fitness, self confidence and self esteem.

The program will be tracked and monitored by Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation staff through daily inspections of the facilities and the programs. In addition, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the Department of Social Services will work closely on the planning and implementation of the camp program to ensure sound fiscal management, diverse programming and quality childcare.

The children selected for Camp Morty will be recommended by Westchester County's Department of Social Services, consulting with the Department of Mental Health. This program, consisting of six one-week sessions, including one sibling week, will serve a total of four hundred campers over the six week period.

This agreement is exempt from the operation of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xviii).

A resolution is attached for your consideration.

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner, Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the Commissioner, Department of Social Services, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Friends of Westchester County Parks, Inc. ("Friends of Parks"), 450 Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley, New York 10502 to provide for the operation and management of Camp Morty, a sleep away camp facility for Westchester's children between the ages of 8 and 15 who are under the care of the Department of Social Services, to be located at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, North Salem, New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the agreement will commence June 27, 2014 and terminate December 31, 2014 and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that funding for the operation and management of Camp Morty will be provided through the Westchester County Department of Social Services; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County will pay \$475,000 to Friends of Parks for this purpose in accordance with an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this agreement is subject to County appropriations; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the "State Budget") proposed and adopted during the term of this Agreement. The County shall retain the right, upon the occurrence of any release by the Governor of a proposed State Budget and/or the adoption of a State Budget or any amendments thereto, and for a reasonable period of time after such release(s) or adoption(s) to conduct an analysis of the impacts of any State Budget on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right to either terminate this Agreement or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the Contractor, then the Contractor shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon a reasonable prior notice; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions reasonably necessary to implement this Resolution.

Agreement #

Account to be  
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	42	809P	4380	T809	\$475,000

Budget Funding Year(s) 2014 Start Date: 6/27/2014 End Date: 12/31/2014  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 38%

State Aid: 39%

**\$ 475,000** Federal Aid: 23%  
(must match resolution)

Other : \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 06/25/2014 JOMARY WEIRA, SECRETARY