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TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

Hon. Michael B. Kaplowitz, Chairman
Westchester County Board of Legislators

DATE: September 15, 2014

SUBJECT: Authority to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement with Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. to provide free legal immigration services to young immigrants who qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, for a term commencing January 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed \$10,000

The attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement (the "Agreement") with Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. ("WHC") pursuant to which WHC will provide free legal immigration services to young immigrants who qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA"), for a term commencing January 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), payable quarterly pursuant to an approved budget.

DACA was introduced in 2012 by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"). The policy offers relief from deportation to young immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and who meet other specific requirements including being under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012. Immigrants who qualify may also be eligible to apply for work authorizations, social security numbers, driver's licenses and health insurance. DACA status remains in effect for two years at which time an application for renewal must be submitted to DHS.

According to a U.S. Department of Labor study based on a longitudinal study of immigrants legalized in 1986, previously undocumented immigrants who were granted legal status experienced a 15.1% increase in wages within five years. Legalization promotes investment in the education and training of immigrants with the goal of granting access to a broader range of higher-paying jobs, encouraging labor mobility which increases the returns on the labor skills of immigrants by improving the efficiency of the labor market such that the skillsets of immigrants more closely match the jobs that they perform, and making it more likely for immigrants to start businesses and create jobs.

WHC has been providing services in Westchester for the past 40 years and has extensive experience working with immigrants. In 1986, it was designated as a Qualified Designated Entity by the U.S. Department of Justice under the Reagan Administration's Amnesty Program when it processed thousands of legalization applications for clients. Following the initial registration process, WHC assisted clients in applying for legal permanent residency, petitioning for immediate relatives living abroad, and applying for naturalization. WHC has since helped clients obtain lawful status, legal permanent resident status for themselves or relatives, citizenship and/or work authorizations. As a result, many of WHC's clients have been able to become lawfully employed.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by increasing the stability and self-sufficiency of young Latino immigrant men and women.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are for WHC to provide free legal immigration services to young immigrants who qualify for DACA.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women, which will be responsible for monitoring WHC's performance by means of quarterly statistics and narratives.

Under the Westchester County Procurement Policy Section 3(a)(xxi), your Honorable Board may determine "by resolution passed prior to commencing procurement that compliance with the Procurement Policy would not be in the best interests of the County." Due to the fact that WHC has the necessary experience and expertise to provide these services in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner, and for the reasons set forth above, it is requested that your Honorable Board make the determination that it is in the best interests of the County to exempt from the application of the procedural requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy the proposed Agreement with WHC.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the County Executive, Director of the Office for Women and the Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, it is hereby determined that application of the procedural requirements contained therein, including the necessity of soliciting written price quotations, 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 Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. pursuant to which Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc. will provide free legal immigration services to young immigrants who qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 10/01/2014 - JONATHAN WEIR, SECRETARY