

48822

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Honorable Robert P. Astorino
Westchester County Executive

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

Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: December 18, 2015

SUBJECT: Authority to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement with Pace University to provide screenings, consultations and representation for immigrants in Port Chester and New Rochelle, for a term commencing July 1, 2015 and continuing through June 30, 2016, for an amount not-to-exceed \$15,450

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") Pace University ("Pace") pursuant to which Pace, through its Community Law Practice, will provide screenings, consultations and representation for immigrants in Port Chester and New Rochelle, for a term commencing July 1, 2015 and continuing through June 30, 2016, for an amount not-to-exceed Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$15,450.00), payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget.

Pace's Community Law Practice ("PCLP") was established in 2012 as a first-of-its-kind legal residency and incubator program where recent Pace Law School graduates serve as Fellows who intensively learn legal practice under the supervision of experienced attorneys, provide high quality legal services, and gain the tools to create solo and small practices. Its mission is to meet the urgent need for quality, affordable legal services in Westchester County and throughout the Hudson Valley. The PCLP has also provided extensive community education through events held at Pace and at collaborating community-based organizations.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by making available to immigrants legal education that they need and might otherwise be unable to obtain. Furthermore, Immigrants

have language and cultural barriers when using legal system and may be fearful of immigration issues.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are for Pace to provide screenings and consultations for immigration relief at approximately 24 community events in Port Chester and New Rochelle, as well as legal representation for up to 10 individuals in matters including wage theft cases and affirmative immigration applications such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”), green card renewal, work permit renewal and naturalization.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of the public health, safety and general welfare, as providing legal education to immigrants may keep them from having to remain dependent on social service systems and help them mainstream into the American culture.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women.

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.” 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 Pace.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Westchester County Executive, the Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, and the Director of the Office for Women, 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 Pace University pursuant to which Pace University will provide screenings, consultations and representation for immigrants in Port Chester and New Rochelle.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/21/2016
L. SYMBIUSU SECRETARY