

83511

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Honorable George Latimer
Westchester County Executive
Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: March 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution to exempt the procurement of an agreement with Pace University, acting by and through its Elisabeth Haub School of Law's Pace Women's Justice Center, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy.

Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board to exempt the procurement of an agreement (the "Agreement") between the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") and Pace University, acting by and through its Elisabeth Haub School of Law's Pace Women's Justice Center, ("Pace") pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy. Pace will provide free legal consultations for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse through its Legal Clinic in Northern Westchester, for a term commencing on January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021.

Ordinarily under Section 5(b) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, the County is required to solicit written quotations from no fewer than three entities customarily providing the requested services. However, Pace has extensive experience providing these services in Westchester and is the largest direct legal services and training provider focused exclusively on serving victims and survivors of domestic violence and elder abuse in Westchester and Putnam Counties. Furthermore, Pace has successfully provided similar services under contracts administered through the Office for Women since 1999, offering immigrant and non-immigrant victims legal assistance through its Family Court Legal Centers.

In the years that Pace has been funded through contracts administered by the Office for Women, your Board has determined that it was in the best interests of the County to exempt those contracts from the Westchester County Procurement Policy requirements because of its unique focus. Given Pace's experience, capabilities, and past work for Westchester County, it is

proposed that the best interests of the County would be served by again exempting the procurement of the proposed Agreement from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof. Accordingly, a resolution to exempt this procurement is hereby submitted for your consideration.

We respectfully recommend the adoption of the attached resolution.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 04/08/2021 - LISA MAJAJ, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Westchester County Executive 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 proposals, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly, not in the best interests of the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, in connection with the procurement of an agreement with Pace University, acting by and through its Elisabeth Haub School of Law's Pace Women's Justice Center, ("Pace") for a term commencing on January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021, pursuant to which Pace will provide free legal consultations for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse through its Legal Clinic in Northern Westchester.