

ID 89025

Date: February 1, 2022

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kathleen M. O'Connor, Commissioner Parks, Recreation & Conservation Leonard G. Townes, Commissioner Department of Social Services

Re: Authority to enter into an agreement with Westchester Parks Foundation, 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.

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Up until twenty years ago, the County of Westchester ("County"), through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (the "Department"), 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 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. However, due to the COVID-19 virus, the 2020 camp was not able to take place at Mountain Lakes. The Westchester Parks Foundation developed a virtual camp program. The program was successful and filled an immediate need for families, many of whom are essential workers. After a full year of hybrid learning, social distancing and various levels of social and physical isolation, families have advocated for Camp Morty transitioning to a day camp experience for 2021 to be held at Tibbetts Brook Park. It has been determined that for 2022, Camp Morty can go back to sleep away camp at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park in North Salem, New York.

Accordingly, the attached resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County to enter into an agreement with Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation located at 155 Lafayette Avenue – Suite 101, White Plains, New York 10603, to provide for the operation and management of

a sleep away camp experience known as Camp Morty for the period from May 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Funding for the operation and management of Camp Morty will be provided through the Westchester County Department of Social Services.

The Department will provide housing accommodations at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park for Camp Morty's staff and campers during the summer of 2022. Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. 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 children under the care of the Department of Social Services who would otherwise not have that opportunity. In exchange for their operation and management of Camp Morty during 2022, the County will pay Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. \$646,460 in accordance with an approved budget. To ensure the health and safety of everyone in the sleep away camp setting, Camp Morty will adhere to New York State guidelines regarding protections against COVID-19.

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 recreational experiences in a summer day 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, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health. This program, consisting of six one-week sessions, will serve a total of approximately five 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 Westchester Parks Foundation Inc., 155 Lafayette Avenue – Suite - 101, White Plains, New York 10603 to provide for the operation and management of Camp Morty, a sleep away camp experience for Westchester's children between the ages of 8 and 15 under the care of the Department of Social Services, located at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park located in North Salem, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the agreement will commence May 1, 2022 and terminate December 31, 2022 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 \$646,464 to Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. 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.

Original Agreement \$646,464  
 First Amendment \$  
 This Amendment \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL \$646,464

Agreement # PRC-1359

Account to be  
 Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	42	809X	4380	T809	\$646,464.00

Budget Funding Year(s) 2022 Start Date: 5/1/2022 End Date: 12/31/2022  
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 38%

State Aid: 39%

\$646,464 Federal Aid: 23%

(must match resolution)

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 02/24/2022 - DIAMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY