

**90813**

To: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

Date: February 7, 2022

Subject: Authority to enter into an agreement with Pace University, acting by and through its Elisabeth Haub School of Law's Pace Women's Justice Center, to provide legal consultations for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse in Northern Westchester, as well as civil legal services for low-income victims of domestic violence in New Rochelle, for a term from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$110,178.00.

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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 enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with Pace University, acting by and through its Elisabeth Haub School of Law's Pace Women's Justice Center ("PWJC"), pursuant to which PWJC will provide legal consultations for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse in Northern Westchester, as well as civil legal services for low-income victims of domestic violence who reside in New Rochelle or fall within the catchment area served by the New Rochelle Family Court, for a term commencing on January 1, 2022 and continuing through December 31, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$110,178.00, payable quarterly pursuant to an approved budget.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by enhancing the safety and independence of victims of domestic abuse. If victims are empowered to learn how to develop and maintain their own safety they are not as likely to return to dependence on their abusers, thereby reducing public safety costs and medical costs. By supplying legal representation in family court for victims who cannot afford representation, PWJC will assist in securing safety for victims and their children and, as a result, help them avoid dependency on public assistance.

PWJC has successfully provided similar legal services through the Family Court Legal Program located in the White Plains and Yonkers Family Courts, and has since expanded those services to victims in New Rochelle and Northern Westchester.

The goal and objective of the proposed Agreement is for PWJC to provide legal consultations, referrals, advice and counsel, brief services, advocacy, negotiation, full representation and appeals.

The goal and objective of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women.

Authority to exempt the procurement of the proposed Agreement from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, has been granted by your Honorable Board pursuant to a separate resolution submitted on even date herewith.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

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

# RESOLUTION

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with Pace University, acting by and through its Elisabeth Haub School of Law's Pace Women's Justice Center ("PWJC"), pursuant to which PWJC will provide legal consultations for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse in Northern Westchester, as well as civil legal services for low-income victims of domestic violence who reside in New Rochelle or fall within the catchment area served by the New Rochelle Family Court, for a term commencing on January 1, 2022 and continuing through December 31, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$110,178.00, payable quarterly pursuant to 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 such 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 reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute any and all documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be charged/credited:

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase, or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars	Funding Year(s)
101	52	2508	5100	N/A	\$110,178	2022

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

\$110,178  
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source:    Tax Dollars \$110,178  
                               State Aid \_\_\_\_\_  
                               Federal Aid \_\_\_\_\_  
                               Other \_\_\_\_\_