



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 17, 2016

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: WNY Peace Center Anti-Violence Mentoring Program

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to enter into a contract with Western New York Peace Center to provide their juvenile justice focused anti-violence mentoring program to the residents of the Secure Detention Facility.

The Department of Social Services Youth Services Division has previously contracted with WNY Peace Center to provide programming at the detention facility, and wishes to continue providing this anti-violence mentoring program to the residents.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Ben Hilligas at the Erie County Youth Bureau. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Poloncarz" clearly distinguishable.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/lb
Enclosure

cc:

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Youth Services
Re: WNY Peace Center Anti-Violence Mentoring Program
Date: June 17, 2016

SUMMARY

WNY Peace Center provided restorative justice focused, conflict resolution programming at the Erie County Secure Youth Detention facility during the summer of 2015, and Youth Services would like to continue this program for the summer of 2016.

The WNY Peace Center program utilizes a juvenile justice focused curriculum. The curriculum is an internationally recognized program that was developed by 13 Nobel peace prize laureates. The program was well received by residents and is reported to have helped reduce negative behaviors in youth residing at the secure facility.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Division of Youth Services currently has an available balance of \$4,500 in their professional services account to fund this program.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Youth Services seeks to provide quality youth development programming to detained youth in order to decrease negative behaviors and promote pro-social, positive decision making.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The curriculum is designed to create young leaders committed to positive change in themselves, their communities and the world through the inspiration of 13 Nobel Peace Laureates, who pass on the spirit, skills and wisdom they embody. The curriculum is designed for youth who are engaged in the juvenile justice system. It addresses issues of gangs, drugs and alcohol, and other risky behaviors.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Resident youth at secure detention would not have the opportunity to benefit from a program that helps develop skills in the area of civic responsibility, reconciliation and leadership while being challenged to rewrite their life stories and learn the power of peace.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Contract reflecting needed services will be executed.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION

**RE: WNY Peace Center
Anti-Violence Mentoring Program**

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services Youth Services Division has previously contracted with WNY Peace Center to provide their juvenile justice focused anti-violence mentoring program to the residents of the secure detention facility, and

WHEREAS, the curriculum fosters listening, cooperation and engagement of youth in a learning process designed to enhance social/emotional skills, and

WHEREAS, the Youth Services division wishes to continue providing this program to the residents at youth detention for the summer of 2016, and

WHEREAS, the Youth Services division has available balances within their current budget to contract with the WNY Peace Center to provide their Juvenile Justice focused anti-violence mentoring program to the residents of the Secure Youth Detention facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Western New York Peace Center to provide anti-violence mentoring services to the residents of the secure detention facility in the amount of \$4,500, funding being available in account 516020, professional services and contracts, of the Youth Services division, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the County Executive, the Division of Budget and Management, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Social Services, and the Division of Youth Services.