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June 16, 2016

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

Re: Authorization to extend contracts with existing providers of inmate communication services and commissary services

Honorable Members:

Attached please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Erie County Sheriff's Office requesting your Honorable Body's approval which authorizes the County Executive enter into an agreement to extend existing contracts with IC Solutions and Keefe Group for inmate phone services and commissary services.

I kindly request the Erie County Legislature's consideration and approval at a meeting of your Honorable Body. Representatives of the Sheriff's Office will be available to answer any questions.

Very truly yours,

TIMOTHY B. HOWARD
SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

Attachments

ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM

RE: Authorization to extend contracts with existing providers of inmate communication services and commissary services

I. Summary of Recommended Action

The attached resolution requests authorization to allow the County of Erie to enter into any necessary agreements with IC Solutions that extend the existing phone provider agreement. It also seeks authorization to extend the current agreement with Keefe Group for inmate commissary services.

II. Fiscal Implications of Proposal

The contract extensions have increases for the percentage of commission fees paid to the Erie County Sheriff's Office providing the office with additional revenue.

III. Reasons for Recommendation

The Erie County Sheriff's Office has proactively negotiated contract extensions with IC Solutions for inmate communication services and Keefe Group for inmate commissary services. Within the agreement extension for IC Solutions, the company will install a 64-unit Video Visitation System which will provide out-of-area family and friends an opportunity to visit with the inmate without traveling to the area. The Keefe Group extension contains provisions for additional vending machines for the holding center and the correctional facility at no cost to the taxpayers. Finally, both extension agreements contain increases in the commission fees paid to the Erie County Sheriff's Office which will increase revenues and elevate the burden to the taxpayers for facility maintenance and improvements.

IV. Consequence of Negative Action

The Erie County Sheriff's Office would forfeit thousands of dollars in additional revenue and increase the county's budget for maintenance and improvements for the detention facilities.

V. Steps Following Approval of Measure

The Clerk of the Legislature is to send certified copies of the resolution to the County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, the County Attorney's Office, and the Chief of Administration of the Sheriff Office for implementation.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Re: Authorization to extend contracts with existing providers of inmate communication services and commissary services

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office houses over 20,000 inmates each year; and

WHEREAS, the sheriff's office contracts with companies to provide communication and commissary services to inmates; and

WHEREAS, the sheriff's office and Erie County have approved agreements in place with IC Solutions and Keefe Group to provide telephone and commissary services for inmates at the holding center and correctional facility; and

WHEREAS, the county is in year two (2) of a 3-year agreement which IC Solutions and in year two (2) of a 3-year agreement with Keefe Group; and

WHEREAS, IC Solutions and Keefe Group have integrated the companies' technologies into the county facilities' existing phone and computer systems saving time and eliminating additional sheriff's office administrative costs for the phone and commissary services; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office was proactive in negotiating extensions to the current agreements which resulted in increased revenues to the sheriff's office and greater access for inmates to telephone and commissary services; and

WHEREAS, within the extended agreements, IC Solutions will increase the commission fee paid to the Erie County Sheriff's Office from 61.5% to 65.1% of the gross revenue and Keefe will increase its commission fee to the sheriff's office from 35% to 40% of the gross revenue; and

WHEREAS, these commission fee increases will provide the Erie County Sheriff's Office with additional revenue for detention facility maintenance and improvements without additional taxes for the citizens of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the increased commission fees, IC Solution extension will install a 64-unit Video Visitation System which will allow inmates to remain in contact with out-of-area family and friends or any other group or individual unable to travel to Erie County for a visit; and

WHEREAS, Keefe Group has agreed to install up to eight additional vending machines between the two facilities providing greater access for the inmates to commissary items; and

WHEREAS, both companies will maintain the current equipment, software, and provide technical support without increasing costs to the taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive to enter into agreements extending the existing contracts for IC Solutions and Keefe Group to provide inmate telephone and commissary services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the IC Solutions agreement for inmate communication services will be extended for an additional five (5) years expiring in 2021; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Keefe Group agreement for inmate commissary services will be extended for an additional five (5) years expiring in 2021; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature send certified copies to the County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, the County Attorney's Office, and the Chief of Administration of the Sheriff Office for implementation.