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September 19, 2016

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

**Re: Authorization to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice for
2016 - 2018 Human Trafficking grant
IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

Honorable Members:

Attached please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Erie County Sheriff's Office seeking authorization for to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Justice for a 2016 – 2018 Human Trafficking Grant for the Honorable Body's immediate consideration.

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 enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice for 2016 - 2018 Human Trafficking grant
IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

I. Summary of Recommended Action

The attached resolution requests authorization for the County of Erie and the Erie County Sheriff's Office to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Justice for a 2016 – 2018 Human Trafficking grant for the Western New York Human Trafficking Task Force.

II. Fiscal Implications of Proposal

There is no fiscal impact to the taxpayers of Erie County with acceptance of the \$500,000.00 Human Trafficking grant.

III. Reasons for Recommendation

The County of Erie and the Erie County Sheriff's Office needs authorization to enter into the grant and to pay for, with grant funds, expenses associated with training and professional services mandated within section of the grant.

IV. Consequence of Negative Action

The Erie County Sheriff's Office and the Western New York Human Trafficking Task Force would lose funding to combat human trafficking activities and the task force would be dismantled.

V. Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified copies of the approved resolution are sent to the Division of Budget and Management, 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 enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice for 2016 - 2018 Human Trafficking grant
IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice has awarded \$500,000 to the Erie County Sheriff's Office to combat human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the Human Trafficking grant's term is October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, this grant is to be used to combat human trafficking activities in the Western New York region; and

WHEREAS, grant funds will be used to pay for, in part or in its entirety, or reimburse participating municipalities and law enforcement agencies for personnel, fringe benefits, training, travel, supplies, awareness campaign materials, and consultants for the Western New York Human Trafficking Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the grant designates the Erie County Sheriff's Office as the lead law enforcement agency and administrator of the grant for law enforcement investigation training, travel expenses, consultant fees, and other expenses related to the operation of the Western New York Human Trafficking Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the grant stipulate that Erie County will enter into an agreement with an evaluation outcome consultant who will assist victims of human trafficking for the length not to exceed the term of the grant and will pay for travel and victim sessions; and

WHEREAS; the grant does name Diane R. Bessel as the grant's Evaluation Outcome consultant; and

WHEREAS, funds within the grant are designated for proactive police investigation hotel room expenses for two (2) rooms per operation within the Western New York Human Trafficking Task Force's jurisdiction and at a rate not to exceed \$224.00 per operation; and

WHEREAS, the grant further stipulates that the County of Erie is to reimburse participating non-county, municipal employees and law enforcement agencies that are part of the WNY Human Trafficking Task Force for mandatory training and travel expenses incurred by designated task force members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Sheriff's Office and the County Executive are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with United States Department of Justice and accept the

terms and the funding within the 2016 – 2018 Human Trafficking grant; and be it further

RESOLVED, the County of Erie and the Erie County Sheriff's Office are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Diane R. Bessel, so stipulated in the grant agreement, for a term no longer than the length of the 2016 - 2018 Human Trafficking grant for evaluation outcome services, supplies, and travel for an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County of Erie and the Erie County Sheriff's Office are hereby authorized to pay vendors vetted and selected by the U.S. Department of Justice for Survivor Consultant Evaluators for an amount not to exceed \$3,300.00 for the term of the grant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County of Erie and the Erie County Sheriff's Office are hereby authorized to pay for or reimburse task force members or participating agencies for the use of two (2) hotel/motel rooms at a one (1) day rate not to exceed \$224.00 per operation and the aggregate total not to exceed \$8,064.00 for the term of the grant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County of Erie and the Erie County Sheriff's Office are hereby authorized to reimburse participating non-county, law enforcement or municipality employees or the employing organizations for training and travel expenses mandated and presented by representatives of the United States Department of Justice not to exceed \$6,654.00, and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Comptroller's Office is hereby authorized to release the designated funds and make payments as necessary; and be it further

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