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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 16, 2016

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Authorization to contract with LabLynx Inc.

Dear Honorable Members:

As part of the Department of Health's Division of the Medical Examiner's ongoing efforts to modernize, the Department is seeking authorization to enter into a contract with LabLynx Inc. to implement a new suite of case management software. This software will enable the Medical Examiner's office to continue operations as support is being discontinued for the legacy case management program currently in use.

Funding for this project is available through capital project A.11009 "Medical Examiner-Software Upgrade" and the Medical Examiner's Division's account 561410 Lab & Technical Equipment. This project will pay for the full development and installation of the needed software on the County's servers.

Should you have any questions, please contact Commissioner of Health Dr. Gale Burstein at 716-858-6976.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

bqs
Enclosure

cc: Health Commissioner Gale R. Burstein, MD

Comm. 18E-17

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: Authorization to contract with LabLynx Inc.
Date: September 16, 2016

SUMMARY

Authorization is requested to enter into a contract with LabLynx Inc. to provide the Medical Examiner's Office with a case management system.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Initial purchase of \$146,140.00. Annual recurring costs of \$18,500.00 after the first year. Funds are available for this purchase through capital project A.11009 "Medical Examiner-Software Upgrade" and the Medical Examiner's Division's account 561410 Lab & Technical Equipment.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Erie County Medical Examiner's Office currently uses legacy case management software that cannot run on a more advanced version of Windows than Windows XP. Microsoft and by extension the Division of Information Support Services no longer provide support for Windows XP, so an upgrade to modern software is needed. In addition, more modern case management software will provide additional features and improve efficiency.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Just as medical offices and other healthcare providers are transitioning to electronic medical records, so are medical examiners. Digital case management software provides a secure way for staff to record data, photographs, and test results. After an extensive multi-year search LabLynx was identified as being the only company capable for provided both a smooth transition of old files into a new system, and to have both the toxicological and pathology tools needed for the Erie County Department of Health. One of the busiest Medical Examiner's offices in the county, Chicago, has recently transitioned to the LabLynx software with great success and also recommended the product.

Predicting a need for new software ahead of time, funding was secured for this software via a capital project in 2011.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Medical Examiner's Office would be left without a supported case management tool.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will work with the Division of Budget and Management, the Comptroller's Office, the Division of Information and the County Attorney to implement this request.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RE: Authorization to contract with LabLynx Inc.

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health's Division of the Medical Examiner is tasked with maintaining detailed records of all current and past cases; and

WHEREAS, technological changes have led to the office's current case management software becoming unsupported; and

WHEREAS, LabLynx Inc. has developed a proposal for a software and support package that will provide the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office with the tools it needs to continue to manage cases efficiently and professionally; and

WHEREAS, LabLynx's WebLIMS software and additional medical examiner and toxicological modules provide unique capabilities not found in other laboratory case management software which requires two separate systems; and

WHEREAS, WebLIMS meets all applicable accreditation standards and regulations; and

WHEREAS, LabLynx Inc. will provide specialized administrative and user training to existing employees of the Division of the Medical Examiner to transition to this new software; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with LabLynx Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, funding is available for this project via Capital Project A.11009 "Medical Examiner-Software Upgrade" and the Medical Examiner's Division's account 561410 Lab & Technical Equipment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that as a sole source supplier, the request for proposal is hereby waived for this contract; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law, the Division of Information and Support Services and to Dr. Gale R. Burstein, Commissioner of Health.