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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 22, 2017

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

**Re: Department of Social Services
Division of Youth Services
Youth Detention Programming**

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to utilize available funding to increase the current 2017 contracts with F-Bites by \$7,500 to provide their culinary arts training classes, and with Willie Hutch Jones by \$5,000 to provide their comprehensive chess program for the remainder of 2017 to the residents of the Secure Detention Facility. The department of Social Services Youth Services division has set aside funding in account 516041 Youth Facility Programming in the amount of \$50,000.

Due to the overwhelming interest and exceptional enthusiasm by detention residents for the programming provided by F-Bites and Willie Hutch Jones, the youth services division would like to continue these positive programs for the remainder of 2017.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Al Dirschberger at Department of Social Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Al Dirschberger, Department of Social Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Social Services, Youth Services Division
Re: Youth Detention Programming
Date: 05/22/2017

SUMMARY

The Department of Social Services Youth Services division has previously awarded F-Bites \$7,500 and Willie Hutch Jones \$5,000 from funds appropriated in a separate account in the 2017 Budget for positive youth development programming within the detention facility. This level of funding provides 6 months of positive youth programming at the secure detention center. The funds are utilized for the cost of supplies, travel and instruction hours. Due to the overwhelming interest and exceptional enthusiasm by detention residents for the programming provided by F-Bites and Willie Hutch Jones, the youth services division would like to continue these positive programs for the remainder of 2017.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Division of Youth Services currently has an available balance of \$12,500 in their youth facility programming account, 516041, to fund the additional 6 months of F-Bites Vocational Training in Excellence program and the Willie Hutch Jones Sports & Education Chess program. New York State Office of Children and Family Services currently provides 49% reimbursement.

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.

Utilizing a kinesthetic teaching approach while avoiding the traditional lecture model, F-Bites combines various techniques of hands-on learning, peer support, guest speakers, and learning modification to introduce leadership, communication and problem solving skills through the art of healthy, nutritional cooking. This culinary course has been met with exceptional enthusiasm from all secure detention residents.

Willie Hutch Jones provides chess instruction to teach detention residents the history of the game and present various chess situational problems to test their knowledge and skill development. Residents are taught how to play by all the rules of local and national tournaments with the usage of clocks and score sheets. The current class schedule permits one hour of instruction twice a week.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Erie County Division of Youth Services is responsible for the emotional and educational needs of residents during their required stay at the detention center and wishes to provide positive youth development programming remanded to their custody. Resolution No. 56 page R-25 in 2017 Budget book B authorizes this provision:

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with appropriate community agencies for the provision of youth development programming within the detention facility, in an amount not to exceed \$7,500 per agency and staying within the limits of available funding budgeted in account 516041 Youth Facility Programming.

The total available 2017 funding amount is \$50,000. Current funds have been allocated to the following agencies pursuant to a Youth Development Programming RFP: Winning Because I Tried (\$1,875), Young Audiences of Western New York (\$7,500), Community Action Organization (\$6,125), Willie Hutch Jones Sports & Education (\$5,000), Project L.E.E. (\$6,125) and F-Bites (\$7,500).

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 effective communication, problem solving, reconciliation, financial literacy and leadership through the art of culinary training and a comprehensive chess program.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Contract with F-Bites and Willie Hutch Jones Sports & Education reflecting needed services and additional funding will be executed.

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

RE: Youth Detention Programming

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services, Youth Services Division has previously contracted with F-Bites to provide their Vocational Training in Excellence Culinary program, and Willie Hutch Jones Sports & Education to provide their comprehensive chess program to the residents of the secure detention facility, and

WHEREAS, these classes foster 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 these programs to the residents at youth detention for the remainder of 2017, and

WHEREAS, the Youth Services division has available balances within their current budget to contract with the F-Bites and Willie Hutch Jones Sports & Education to provide their Vocational Training in Excellence program to the residents of the Secure Youth Detention facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to amend and continue the current contract in 2017 for an additional \$7,500 for F-Bites (\$15,000 total) and an additional \$5,000 for Willie Hutch Jones Sports & Education (\$10,000 total) to provide their comprehensive Vocational Training in Excellence programs to the residents of the secure detention facility, funding being available in account 516041, youth facility programming, 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.