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June 17, 2019

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

Re: Hope of Buffalo MOU

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization for the Erie County Sheriff's Office and the County of Erie to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hope of Buffalo Inc., to provide programs to reduce recidivism through a comprehensive, county-based, transitional support services. This MOU will also provide funds to reimburse the Erie County Sheriff's Office for a Deputy Sheriff for services related to the program.

Representatives from the Sheriff's Office and Hope of Buffalo, Inc., will be available to answer any questions.

Very truly yours,

TIMOTHY B. HOWARD
SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

Attachments

ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Sheriff's Office – Jail Management Division
Re: Hope of Buffalo Inc. MOU
Date: June 17, 2019

Summary of Recommended Action

The attached resolution requests authorization for the Erie County Sheriff's Office (ECSO) and the County of Erie to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hope of Buffalo Inc., to provide programs to reduce recidivism through comprehensive, county-based, transitional support services.

This MOU will also provide funds to reimburse the Erie County Sheriff's Office for a Deputy Sheriff for services related to the services.

Fiscal Implications of Proposal

The County will be reimbursed \$66,000.00 annually (\$55,000.00 salary and \$11,000.00 for fringe benefits) for the Community Reintegration Deputy position.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Erie County Sheriff's Jail Management Division has collaborated with Hope of Buffalo Inc., for a grant which creates the Project Blue program.

The Project Blue program seeks to reduce recidivism rates through a comprehensive, transitional support program aligned with the specific needs of individuals entering the criminal justice system. Project Blue will expand Hope of Buffalo's current services to include comprehensive case management, education and training, housing, and mentoring services to men and women within the County's jail system.

Additionally, this MOU ensures the Erie County Sheriff's Office assigns a dedicated Community Reintegration Deputy to coordinate all related programs for Project Blue. The Community Reintegration Deputy will facilitate the development, implementation, execution, and evaluation of the program.

Hope of Buffalo Inc. will reimburse the Erie County Sheriff's Office and the County of Erie \$66,000.00 each year of the agreement for the Community Reintegration Deputy salary. The ECSO is not creating a new Deputy Sheriff position, rather it will designate a current sworn employee to the program.

The term of the MOU 36-months from the date of its execution and the MOU may be terminated, without cause, by either party with upon 30-days of written notice.

Consequences of Negative Action

Failure to authorize the Sheriff's Office and the County to enter into an agreement with Hope of Buffalo Inc. will prevent the parties from utilizing grant funds and provide expanded reintegration programs.

Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, County Attorney, Division of Budget and Management, Erie County Comptroller, the Sheriff's Administration Division, and the Sheriff's Jail Management Division for implementation.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JAIL MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

Re: Hope of Buffalo MOU

WHEREAS, Peaceprints of WNY and the Erie County Sheriff's Office (ECSO) collaborated on a grant to address recidivism and reintegration programs for individuals incarcerated in Erie County jails; and

WHEREAS, Project Blue seeks to reduce recidivism rates through a comprehensive, transitional support program aligned with the specific needs of individuals entering the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Project Blue will expand Hope of Buffalo's current services to include comprehensive case management, education and training, housing, and mentoring services to men and women within the County's jail system; and

WHEREAS, the program will concentrate on individuals who are deemed to be at a medium to high risk of reoffending; and

WHEREAS, through this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the ECSO will provide a safe and secure area within the jail facilities to assist the Project Blue program; and

WHEREAS, the agreement states the ECSO provides access to the inmates as well as the inmate's assessments, classifications, criminal records, court records, and security for any related Project Blue activity; and

WHEREAS, this agreement ensures the ECSO assigns a dedicated Community Reintegration Deputy to coordinate all related programs for Project Blue; and

WHEREAS, the Community Reintegration Deputy will facilitate the development, implementation, execution, and evaluation of the program; and

WHEREAS, Hope of Buffalo Inc. will reimburse the Erie County Sheriff's Office and the County of Erie \$66,000.00 (\$55,000.00 salary and \$11,000.00 for fringe benefits) for each year of the agreement for the Community Reintegration Deputy salary; and

WHEREAS, the ECSO is not creating a new Deputy Sheriff position, rather it will designate a current sworn employee to the collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the MOU shall remain in effect for no longer 36-months from the date of its execution; and

WHEREAS, the MOU may be terminated, without cause, by either party with upon 30-days of written notice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Sheriff's Office and the County Executive are authorized to enter into an agreement with Hope of Buffalo Inc., (D.B.A. Peaceprints of WNY), 660 Smith Street, Buffalo, New York, 14120, for a term of no longer than 36-months; and be it further

RESOLVED, the MOU may be terminated; without cause, by either party with upon 30-days of written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, Hope of Buffalo Inc. will reimburse the Erie County Sheriff's Office and the County of Erie \$66,000.00 (\$55,000.00 salary and \$11,000.00 for fringe benefits) for each year of the agreement for the Community Reintegration Deputy salary; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Division of Budget and Management is authorized to make any technical adjustments necessary to transfer the funds; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, County Attorney, Division of Budget and Management, Erie County Comptroller, the Sheriff's Administration Division, and the Sheriff's Jail Management Division for implementation.