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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 20, 2019

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

Re: F-Bites Vocational Training in Excellence Culinary Program

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to utilize available funding to increase the current 2019 contract with F-Bites by \$5,000 to provide their culinary arts training classes for the remainder of 2019 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 \$100,000.

Due to the overwhelming interest and exceptional enthusiasm by detention residents for the program, Youth Services would like to continue this positive program for the remainder of 2019.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Ben Hilligas at the Erie County Youth Bureau. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Marie Cannon, Social Services Commissioner
Paul Kubala, Youth Services Deputy Commissioner
Ben Hilligas, Youth Bureau Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Youth Services
Re: F-Bites Vocational Training in Excellence Culinary Program
Date: September 20, 2019

SUMMARY

The Department of Social Services Youth services division has previously awarded F-Bites \$20,000 from funds appropriated in a separate account in the 2019 Budget for positive youth development programming within the detention facility. This level of funding provides 8-9 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 excitement by detention residents for Chef Bobby's culinary hour, the youth services division would like to continue this positive program for the remainder of 2019.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Division of Youth Services currently has an available balance of \$43,000 in their youth facility programming account, 516041, to fund the additional 3 months of F-Bites Vocational Training in Excellence program in the amount of \$5,000. 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.

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. 60 page R-28 in 2019 Budget book B authorizes this provision:

RESOLVED, as part of the detention facility youth development program, the agency, F-Bites shall be funded to a maximum of \$20,000 for 2019 to fund their unique and popular culinary program.

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.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Contract with F-Bites reflecting needed services and additional funding will be executed.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
Youth Services Division

RE: F-Bites
Vocational Training in Excellence

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

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 this program to the residents at youth detention for the remainder of 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Youth Services division has available balances within their current budget to contract with the F-Bites to provide 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 2019 for an additional \$5,000 for F-Bites 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.