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SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

February 9, 2023

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

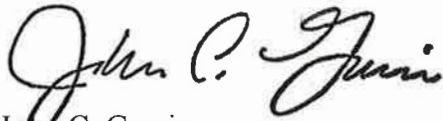
Re: HALT Act Programming Provider


Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to allow the County of Erie and the Erie County Sheriff's Office to enter into an agreement with Peaceprints of Western New York to provide staff for HALT Act programming.

Representatives from the Sheriff's Office will be available to answer any questions.

Very truly yours,


John C. Garcia
Sheriff of Erie County


Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

Attachments

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ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Sheriff's Office
Re: HALT Act Programming Provider
Date: February 9, 2023

Summary of Recommended Action

The Legislature needs to authorize the County Executive and the Sheriff to enter into an agreement with Peaceprints of Western New York (PPWNY) for HALT Act programming staff.

Fiscal Implications of the Proposal

This resolution will not have any impact on the 2023 County Budget. The Sheriff's Office will utilize telephone revenue funds for the programs.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act (HALT) was signed into law and goes into effect on March 31, 2022. The HALT Act establishes Residential Rehabilitation Units (one male RRU and one female RRU per facility). It also requires the Sheriff's Office to provide out-of-cell trauma-informed therapeutic programming to promote personal development and address the underlying causes of problematic behavior among incarcerated populations.

Peaceprints of Western New York (PPWNY) has developed a curriculum that can be self-guided or staff-led in a congregate or individual setting. It includes such topic areas as anger management, character development, purposeful living, victim awareness, and several other topic areas relevant to HALT. In addition, there are also sections dedicated to different areas beneficial to an incarcerated individual attempting to re-enter the community successfully.

PPWNY's programming covers the mandated aspects of the HALT Act and can be implemented immediately with a program coordinator.

The program coordinator will implement the curriculum and act as a liaison for clients, jail administration, and outside agencies. The coordinator's primary functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Implement Hustle 2.0 programming. Hustle 2.0 is an in-custody study program written by incarcerated persons and built around evidence-based research and practices that indicate effectiveness at reducing criminal behavior and recidivism.
- Use the primary program interventions, including structured journaling and expressive writing to address criminogenic needs of anger, hostility, criminal thinking, emotional stability, as well as family, parenting, and relationships.
- Lead and facilitate groups in accordance with jail rules and Hustle 2.0 topic areas.
- Develop & maintain an onsite program resource guide to be made available to clients.
- Work closely with the Jail Management Division and the Project Blue Transition Coordinator to coordinate programming and services to align with established goals.

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The Sheriff's Office and the County Executive need authorization from the Legislature to enter into a contract with PPWNY. The agreement will end on December 31, 2023, and will not exceed \$39,000.00.

Consequences of Negative Action

Failure to approve this request will prevent the Sheriff's Office from complying with the mandates within the HALT Act.

Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the County Attorney, the County Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Finance, the Division of Purchasing, and the Sheriff's Office for implementation.

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**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE &
THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Re: HALT Act Programming Provider

WHEREAS, are requirement of the HALT Act, the Sheriff's Office needs to provide out-of-cell trauma-informed therapeutic programming to promote personal development and address the underlying causes of problematic behavior among incarcerated populations, and

WHEREAS, Peaceprints of Western New York (PPWNY) has created the Hustle 2.0 curriculum which is a 348-page, softcover Hustle Guide with 12 evidence-based courses each packed with self-assessments, journal exercises, case studies, testimonials, and success stories; and

WHEREAS, PPWNY will employ and assign a qualified programming coordinator to work at both facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office will fund year one of the program with Telephone Revenue Funds; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the program coordinator is \$39,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office and PPWNY will enter into an agreement which will end December 31, 2023, and will not exceed \$39,000.00 for a program coordinator, and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff and the County Executive agree the aforementioned position and agreement are necessary for the operation of the Erie County Holding Center and the Erie County Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, the expenditure for a HALT Act program coordinator complies with COMM. 6E-24, 2013, which states that Telephone Revenue "shall be dedicated to the general operation of the Holding Center and Correctional Facility"; and

WHEREAS, as of February 6, 2023, the Telephone Revenue account has a balance of \$509,635.00; and

WHEREAS, this resolution transfers \$39,000.00 from the Telephone Revenue account, and this resolution will not impact the 2023 County Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature authorizes the County Executive and the Erie County Sheriff's Office to enter into an agreement with Peaceprints of Western New York, 660 Smith St, Buffalo, NY 14210 that will not exceed \$39,000.00 and will expire December 31, 2023; and be it further

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RE: [Illegible text]

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[Illegible text]

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RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature authorizes the Erie County Sheriff's Office and the Division of Budget and Management to transfer \$39,000.00 in available Telephone Revenue funds to the appropriate Erie County Sheriff's Office accounts:

ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REVENUE

415622

Jail Telephone Revenue Funds

DECREASE

\$39,000.00

APPROPRIATION

516020

Professional Services

Total Revenue

INCREASE

\$39,000.00

\$39,000.00

and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Comptroller's Office is hereby authorized to release the designated funds and make any payments for the approved agreements; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the County Attorney, County Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Finance, the Division of Purchasing, and the Sheriff's Office for implementation.

FISCAL IMPACT: As indicated

