

112859**DATE:** January 20, 2026**TO:** Board of Acquisition and Contract**FROM:** Sherlita Amler, MD
Commissioner of Health**RE:** Authorization to Enter into Contracts with Robert Ponzini and Ilan D. Gilbert as Hearing Officers, for the Term 3/1/26 through 2/28/27, for a total aggregate not-to-exceed amount of \$70,000 payable at the stated contract rates.

The County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Health (the "WCDH"), seeks authorization to enter into contracts with each of the following persons: Robert Ponzini and Ilan D. Gilbert as Hearing Officers, for the term commencing on 3/1/26 and continuing through 2/28/27, for a total aggregate not-to-exceed amount of \$70,000 payable at the stated contract rates.

The WCDH shall pay the Hearing Officers a per diem fee calculated at the rate of \$150 per hour, not-to-exceed \$900 in any one day and \$75 for each Report of Findings issued.

These contracts promote the public health, safety and general welfare of County residents by enforcement of the Public Health Laws of the State of New York and the Westchester County Sanitary Codes. The Hearing Officers preside over and adjudicate cases regarding violations concerning health and safety, and provide County residents their due process during the Administrative Hearing process. The goal is to have professional, experienced, objective representation and interpretation of code rules and regulations, and report the case findings before the Westchester County Board of Health ("Board").

As written in the Uniform Procedures for the Designation of Hearing Officers in accordance with the Public Health Laws of the State of New York and Laws of Westchester County (see attachment), the Board is "responsible for and authorized to designate by resolution qualified persons as Hearing Officers" on an annual basis. The above-named Hearing Officers have been reviewed and approved as qualified to act as Hearing Officers by the Board at its January 2026 meeting. Additionally, it should be noted that in December 2025 Joseph C. LoCascio gave notice to the Board that he would be retiring effective December 31, 2025.

These contracts will be tracked and monitored by the WCDH's and Board of Health's monthly review of cases and findings and periodic meetings with the Hearing Officers. In 2025 the Hearing Officers presided over approximately 1,381 cases involving various sanitary code and public health law violations.

Authority to exempt these contracts from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a)xxi thereof, has been granted by your Honorable Board in accordance with a separate resolution of even date herewith.

Authorization is respectfully requested to enter into separate contracts with Robert Ponzini and Ilan D. Gilbert as Hearing Officers, at the aforementioned rates for a total aggregate not-to-exceed amount of \$70,000.

Attachment

RESOLUTION

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, BE IT HEREBY

- RESOLVED,** that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Health, is authorized to enter into contracts each with Robert Ponzini and Ilan D. Gilbert to provide services as Hearing Officers, for a term commencing on March 1, 2026 and terminating on February 28, 2027; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the rates charged for Hearing Officer services by Robert Ponzini and Ilan D. Gilbert shall be specified in the contracts as a per diem fee calculated at the rate of \$150 per hour, not to exceed \$900 in any one day and \$75 for each Report of Findings issued; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the total aggregate amount to be expended under all contracts for the period of March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027 shall not exceed \$70,000; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** that each of the contracts is subject to County appropriations; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** that each of the contracts is subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the "State Budget") proposed and adopted during the term of the contracts. Each of the contracts shall contain a provision that the County shall retain the right, upon the occurrence of any release by the Governor of a proposed State Budget and/or the adoption of the State Budget or any amendments thereto, and for a reasonable period of time after such releases(s) or adoption(s) to conduct an analysis of the impacts of any State Budget on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right to either terminate the contracts or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount and/or rate to any of the above Contractors, then the Contractor(s) shall have the right to terminate the Contract upon reasonable prior written notice; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effect the purposes hereof.

Original Agreement \$
First Amendment \$
This Amendment \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Agreement # _____

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	27	0010 - HSSN	4380-31		\$58,333 (2026)
101	27	0010 - HSSN	4380-31		\$11,667 (2027)

Budget Funding Year(s)
(must match resolution)

2026-2027

Start Date 03/01/26

End Date 02/28/2027

Funding Source

Tax Dollars

\$44,800

State Aid

\$25,200

\$70,000

Federal Aid

(must match resolution)

Other