

**Department of Parks, Recreation  
& Conservation****ID 111162**

Date: May 16, 2025

To: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kathleen M. O'Connor  
Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Re: Resolution to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, the procurement of an agreement with the Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. for the provision of cultural, educational, leisure time and other programs and activities on behalf of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and for a license to use and operate the Ropes Course at the County's Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, in North Salem, New York, for a term of May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2030, with the County having the sole option to renew the agreement for an additional five (5) year term.

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Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures the procurement of an agreement (the "Agreement") between the County of Westchester (the "County") and the Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") for the Foundation's provision of cultural, educational, leisure time and other programs and activities on behalf of the County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (the "Department") and for a license for the Foundation to use and operate the Ropes Course at the County's Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, in North Salem, New York (the "Park") and, for the period of May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2030, with the County having the sole option to renew the agreement for an additional five (5) year term.

Pursuant to the Agreement, the Foundation shall provide various cultural, educational, leisure time and other programs and activities, including but not limited to fundraising activities, on behalf of the Department. In addition, and pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, the County shall grant the Foundation a license to use and operate the Ropes Course at the Park. There shall be no cost to

the County for this Agreement, however, the County, in its sole discretion, may reimburse the Foundation up to an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 annually, for costs the Foundation incurs in providing cultural, educational, leisure time and other programs and activities on behalf of the Department.

The Foundation was formed in 1977 exclusively for charitable purposes and solely for the benefit of the Department. It has become an integral partner in the cooperative effort of the Department and the private sector in the support and development of the unique and beautiful County Parks.

The Foundation has served as an invaluable partner to the Department by bridging the gap between public resources and community-driven initiatives. The Foundations services and partnership enhance the County's 18,000-acre park system, ensuring its sustainability and accessibility for all residents. This partnership ensures that the County's parks remain vibrant, accessible, and cherished spaces for all residents. The Westchester Parks Foundation's multifaceted approach—combining volunteer mobilization, program development, advocacy, and community engagement—complements and enhances the Department's operations.

Based upon the Foundation's extensive experience and its longstanding relationship with the Department, it is proposed that the best interests of the County would be served by exempting the procurement of the proposed Agreement from the application of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof. Therefore, a resolution to exempt this procurement is hereby submitted for your consideration.

KOC/JPI

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation be it hereby:

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, it is hereby determined that application of the procedural requirements contained therein, including the necessity of soliciting proposals, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly, not in the best interests of the County of Westchester (the "County") in connection with the procurement of an agreement with the Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") for the Foundation's provision of cultural, educational, leisure time and other programs and activities on behalf of the County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and for a license for the Foundation to use and operate the Ropes Course at the County's Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, in North Salem, New York, for the period of May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2030, with the County having the sole option to renew the agreement for an additional five (5) year term.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 05/29/2025 - RAMONA SOULS SECRETARY