



ID 110311

Date: January 27, 2025

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kathleen M. O'Connor, Commissioner Parks, Recreation & Conservation Leonard G. Townes, Commissioner Department of Social Services

Re: Authority to enter into an agreement with Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. to provide for the operation and management of "Camp Morty", a sleep away camp facility for Westchester's children ages 6-17, all who are under the care of the Department of Social Services, to be located at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, North Salem, New York.

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The County, through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, as well as other organizations, has been providing an opportunity for an extended sleep away camp experience in a natural setting for children in Westchester County between the ages of 6 and 17 who are under the care of the Department of Social Services. In 2023, it was determined that Camp Morty would continue to be a sleep away camp at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park with an added program "Merriwood Teen Empowerment". The goal of Merriwood is to offer teens ages 13-15 who are receiving temporary assistance through Department of Social Services, camp activities with a curriculum tailored to their age group, such as community service, business planning and personal development. Merriwood is not a separate camp from Camp Morty, but a program within it. This program was successful and continued in 2024. In 2025, Camp Morty will continue to be a sleep away camp divided into three programs: Junior Camp for children 6 to 12 years of age, Merriwood Teen Empowerment Program for those between 13 and 15 years of age, and Counselors-in-Training (CIT) Program for teens aged 16 and 17.

The attached resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County to enter into an agreement with Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation located at 104 Smith Avenue, Mount Kisco, NY 10549, to provide for the operation and management of a sleep away camp experience known as Camp Morty and Merriwood for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Funding for the operation and management of Camp Morty and Merriwood will be provided through the Westchester County Department of Social Services.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation will provide housing accommodations at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park for Camp Morty's staff and campers during the summer of 2025. Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. will

provide supervision, supplies and staff. Programs and activities at Camp Morty include boating, fishing, swimming, arts and crafts, environmental education, sports and physical fitness, and team building utilizing the challenge ropes course. These activities will provide a positive outdoor experience for children under the care of the Department of Social Services who would otherwise not have that opportunity. In exchange for their operation and management of Camp Morty during 2025, the County will pay Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. \$843,930 in accordance with an approved budget.

The goal of this agreement is to help promote the public health of these boys and girls ages 6-17, who are under the care of the Department of Social Services, and offer them an opportunity to participate in a positive recreational experiences in a summer day camp. Camp Morty provides a place where the County's most needy children can have a reprieve from their mostly urban homes. It also addresses the issue of the declining amount of time today's children spend exploring the wonders of nature. Each summer, Camp Morty will afford children the unique opportunity to grow and expand their horizons in a natural setting while at the same time encourage curiosity, physical fitness, self-confidence and self-esteem.

The program will be tracked and monitored by Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation staff through daily inspections of the facilities and the programs. In addition, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the Department of Social Services will work closely on the planning and implementation of the camp program to ensure sound fiscal management, diverse programming and quality childcare.

The children selected for Camp Morty will be recommended by Westchester County's Department of Social Services, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health. This program, consisting of six one-week sessions for Junior Camp, three two-week sessions for Merriwood Teen Empowerment, and two three-week sessions for CIT Program will serve approximately six hundred campers over the six week period.

This agreement is exempt from the operation of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xviii).

A resolution is attached for your consideration.

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner, Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the Commissioner, Department of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. to provide for the operation and management of "Camp Morty", a sleep away camp facility for Westchester's children ages 6-17, who are under the care of the Westchester County Department of Social Services, to be located at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, North Salem, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the agreement will commence January 1, 2025 and terminate December 31, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that funding for the operation and management of Camp Morty will be provided through the Westchester County Department of Social Services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in consideration for services to be rendered, the County will pay Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc. an amount not-to-exceed \$843,930, in accordance with an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this agreement is subject to County appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the "State Budget") proposed and adopted during the term of this Agreement. 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 a State Budget or any amendments thereto, and for a reasonable period of time after such release(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 this Agreement or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the Contractor, then the Contractor shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon a reasonable prior notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions reasonably necessary to implement this Resolution.

