

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
District Attorney's Office
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 19, 2017 Legistar File No. 17-348

To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

From: District Attorney's Office

Subject: Request for Permission to Contract with Sojourner Family Peace Center to Continue a Federal Domestic Violence Grant Project

We are requesting permission from the County Board, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.52(31)(c) and section 56.30(4)(b) of the county general ordinances, to enter into a three-and-a-half-year contract of approximately \$356,500 with the Sojourner Family Peace Center, Inc. (Sojourner), from approximately July 1, 2017, to December 31, 2020, to continue a federal domestic violence grant project.

Since 2006, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), has provided grant funding, under the Grants to Encourage Arrests and Enforcement of Protection Orders (GTEA) program, to Milwaukee County to promote victim safety and enhance prosecution in domestic violence cases. Sojourner is the district attorney's community partner in the project. The County Board first authorized the district attorney to contract with Sojourner to implement the project in file number 06-442, December 14, 2006, and contractual payments to Sojourner have been included in the district attorney's budgets from 2007 to 2017.

In September 2016, OVW made a GTEA grant award of \$900,000 to Milwaukee County, in collaboration with Sojourner, the county's non-profit, non-governmental victim service provider, to promote victim safety and enhance the prosecution of domestic violence cases. The grant provides approximately three additional years of funding for two prosecutors in the district attorney's domestic violence unit and for two Sojourner victim advocates, at a budgeted cost of \$336,513 for the advocates' salaries and fringe benefits, to provide services in Milwaukee police district stations to victims of domestic violence.

The existing contract with Sojourner, which was approved by the County Board on December 19, 2013, file number 13-850, ends on June 30, 2017. However, the current GTEA grant has been extended to September 30, 2017, and we estimate that funding of approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 for Sojourner will remain on the current grant as of July 1, 2017. Therefore, we are requesting permission to enter into a contract of approximately \$356,500 with Sojourner, assuming grant funds are available, consisting of approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 remaining on the current GTEA grant as of July 1, 2017, and approximately \$336,513 on the new GTEA grant award made in September 2016.

The district attorney's office, Sojourner, and the Milwaukee Police Department participate in the Community Domestic Abuse Advocacy Program (CDAAP), which was established in 2007. The program's goals are to assist victims of domestic violence through confidential advocacy and

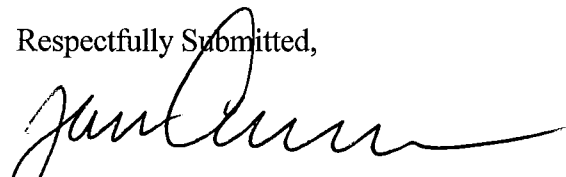
support, to enhance the prosecution of domestic violence cases by increasing victims' cooperation with the criminal justice system, and to reduce domestic violence crimes and homicides in neighborhoods where the Milwaukee Police Department receives the most domestic violence-related calls for service.

CDAAP is unique because it joins law enforcement, domestic violence victim advocates, and prosecutors in a combined effort to reduce domestic violence-related crime on a neighborhood level. In the program, Sojourner victim advocates are located in Milwaukee Police Department stations to encourage greater access and communication between victims, advocates and officers. Police officers refer victims to Sojourner advocates immediately following their response to domestic violence-related calls for service. Sojourner advocates assist victims of domestic violence with safety planning; secure housing, food, clothing and other basic needs; and link victims to services that help them to achieve safety and freedom from domestic abuse.

The proposed 2017-20 contract with Sojourner has been approved in DocuSign by Community Business Development Partners (CBDP), Risk Management, Corporation Counsel as to form, Comptroller, and the County Executive. We will resubmit the contract in DocuSign for the Corporation Counsel's second signature after County Board approval.

The OVW GTEA domestic violence grant requires no local match, and the contractual payments to Sojourner have no tax levy effect because the payments are offset entirely by federal revenue. Estimated 2017 contractual payments to Sojourner and offsetting federal revenue are included in the district attorney's adopted 2017 budget, and 2018 contractual payments to Sojourner and offsetting revenue will be included in the district attorney's 2018 budget submission.

Respectfully Submitted,



John T. Chisholm
District Attorney