

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: June 16, 2015

To: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairperson, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Brian L. Peterson, M.D., Medical Examiner

Subject: Requesting waiver of MGCO 56.30 (9) and authorization to retroactively contract with Lake Country Pathologists

Policy

Section 56.30(9) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances states that no work shall be performed by any professional service contractor until a written contract has been executed and signed by all appropriate officials.

Background

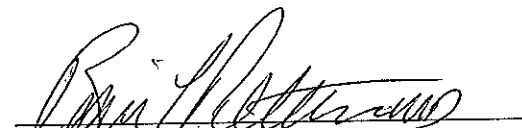
The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office (MCMEO) is accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiner's (NAME). Part of this accreditation requires that the Medical Examiner's Office employ a PhD Forensic Chemist to oversee its forensic laboratory. For several years, MCMEO has had a professional services contract with Lake Country Pathologists to provide this necessary oversight. However, Lake Country Pathologists is dissolving its practice effective September 30, 2015, and we are transitioning to a new vendor still to be determined.

The Medical Examiner's Office has had a contract in place with Lake Country Pathologists for many years, but the last contract expired at the end of 2014. The changes in signatures and approvals required as a result of Act 14 were not immediately recognized when the 2015 contract was initially being created. In addition, changes to some terms were requested by the Office of Corporation Counsel at the time of its review. In the meantime, Lake Country Pathologists continued to perform the required work through May, 2015 without a written contract in place for this year. A new contract is now unable to be fully executed due to the impending dissolution of Lake Country. A contract with a replacement toxicologist is expected to be completed in a few months. The Office should be able to temporarily function without these services in the interim.

Recommendation

I am requesting a waiver of MCGO 56.30(9) to allow payment for services to Lake Country Pathologists incurred in 2015. As of May 31, 2015, \$18,750 of charges have been incurred and invoiced and are unpaid. Work by Lake Country Pathologists has ceased effective June 1, 2015.

Sufficient funds are in place in pay the outstanding invoices.



Brian L. Peterson, M.D.
Medical Examiner

Cc: Willie Johnson, Jr., Co-Chairman, Committee on Finance, Personnel, and Audit
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Co-Chairman, Committee on Finance, Personnel, and Audit
Anthony Staskunas, Chairman, Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
Chris Abele, County Executive
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Scott Manske, Comptroller
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director, Research Services Division, Office of the
Comptroller
Erica Hayden, Research and Policy Analyst, Research Services Division, Office of the
Comptroller
Janelle Jensen, Senior Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Alexis Gassenhuber, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk