

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

Date: November 1, 2013

To: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chair, County Board of Supervisors

From: District Attorney's Office Legistar File No. 13-850

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

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-year contract of \$340,496 with the Sojourner Family Peace Center (Sojourner), from approximately January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2016, to carry out a new federal domestic violence grant.

From 2006 until June 30, 2013, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), 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. When the project ended on June 30, the grant was providing funding for three prosecutors in the district attorney's domestic violence unit and four Sojourner victim advocates. Sojourner was a district attorney community partner throughout the project. The County Board authorized the district attorney to contract with Sojourner to implement the project in file number 06-442, December 14, 2006, and the contractual payments to Sojourner were approved in district attorney budgets from 2007-13.

In September 2013, 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. A longstanding history of collaboration with a community victim service agency was a grant requirement. The grant provides three 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 \$340,496 for salaries and fringe benefits, to provide services in Milwaukee police district stations to victims of domestic violence.

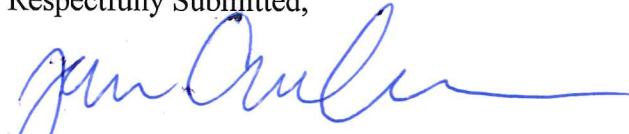
The district attorney's office, Sojourner, and the Milwaukee Police Department participate in the Community Domestic Abuse Advocacy Program (CDAAP), which was established in 2007. The program's goals are to assist victims of domestic violence through confidential advocacy and support, to enhance the 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 contractual payments to Sojourner will have no tax levy effect because the payments will be offset entirely by federal revenue. The district attorney's office will submit a fund transfer early next year to provide budgetary authority for 2014 project expenses and offsetting revenue, and 2015-16 project expenses and revenue will be included in the district attorney's budget submissions.

Respectfully Submitted,



John T. Chisholm
District Attorney