

## COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 14, 2018

**TO:** Theodore Lipscomb, Chair, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Peggy A. West, Chair, Committee on Finance and Audit

**FROM:** John Barrett, Clerk of Circuit Court/Register in Probate *new for JB*

**SUBJECT:** Request that the provision of Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances Section 56.30(9) is waived and the Comptroller is authorized to pay for any services rendered by Metro Milwaukee Mediation Services, Inc., prior to the 2017 contract being signed and executed

I respectfully request that the attached resolution be scheduled for consideration by the Committee on Finance and Audit at its March meeting. It requests that the provision of Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances Section 56.30(9) be waived and the Comptroller be authorized to pay for services rendered by Metro Milwaukee Mediation Services, Inc., prior to the 2017 contract being signed and executed.

### **Background**

Milwaukee County has contracted directly with Metro Milwaukee Mediation Services, Inc. ("MMMS") for mediation services since 2015 (from 2012 through 2014, MMMS subcontracted with Milwaukee County for pass through funds from the Department of Justice). MMMS has historically provided mediation services in foreclosure cases. It recently started providing mediation services in eviction cases, as well. The contract is funded through money allocated to the Clerk of Circuit Court in the annual budget. In 2017, the contract amount approved by the County Board in the budget was \$100,000.

Because of changes in personnel, the lack of a 2017 contract was not discovered until late 2017. Due to the need to have a new contract drafted and reviewed, and to have additional documentation and forms gathered, the contract was not fully signed until January, 2018. A copy of the signed contract is included. Despite the lack of a signed contract and, therefore, lack of payment of contract funds, MMMS provided mediation services as agreed to in the contract throughout 2017.

I ask that a waiver can be granted so that MMMS can be compensated for mediation services rendered.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

The \$100,000 contract amount approved by the Board in the 2017 budget was retained by the Clerk of Circuit Court for funding the contract. This money has been encumbered for payment of the contract, if this resolution is passed. Therefore, there is no fiscal effect.