

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

933



Purchasing: *Janis K Conklin*
Asst. Director

FROM: Bob Doyle, Sheriff-Coroner-PA

SUBMITTAL DATE:
11/23/04

SUBJECT: Approval of Sole Source Awards for Coroner Service Contracts

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move that the Board of Supervisors approve and authorize the Chairperson and Sheriff-Coroner-PA to execute professional service agreements for pathologist services without securing competitive bids, in accordance with Ordinance 459.4, with the following contractors:

Dr. Gordon Freeman
Dr. Stephanie Erlich
Michael and Sydney Presley

BACKGROUND: The County's Chief Forensic Pathologist, Dr. Joseph Cohen, must utilize a number of Doctors for specialized postmortem services. Dr. Freeman conducts examinations of dental records to obtain positive identifications on decedents. Dr. Erlich, a neuropathologist, is called in to conduct macroscopic examinations of the brain, spinal cord and eyes. The Richards, Fischer, Fukumoto Medical Group performs autopsy examinations on decedents when the death is precipitated directly or indirectly by a Sheriff's Department employee.

(Continued on Page 2)

BR 05-059

Janis K Conklin
for Bob Doyle, Sheriff-Coroner-PA

Departmental Concurrence

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$75,000	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$75,000	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$75,000	For Fiscal Year:	FY 2004-05

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Departmental Budget	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE**

County Executive Office Signature *Alely A. Deana*

- Dept's Recomm.: Consent Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

There are less than one thousand Board certified Forensic Pathologists in the nation. The number of those Doctors who are licensed in the State of California and who have experience with examinations for law enforcement agencies is extremely small. The Coroner's office is fortunate that it has found Doctors Freeman and Erlich and the Richards, Fischer, Fukumoto Medical Group locally, and has developed a good working rapport with them over the last few years.

As a further example of the scarcity of Board certified Forensic Pathologists, in 2001, Orange County requested proposals for all forensic pathology/autopsy services required by the County, a contract that was eventually approved for a cost limit over five years of \$7,176,000. The County received a single response, which was from the Richards, Fischer, Fukumoto Medical Group. Orange County has been contracting with this Group for over 37 years.

For these reasons the Sheriff's Department and County Purchasing recommend sole source awards to Doctors Freeman and Erlich with three-year Agreements. The Sheriff's Department has set an annual \$15,000 cost limit on Dr. Freeman's services and a \$30,000 annual cost limit for Dr. Erlich. County Counsel has approved the two Agreements as to form.

Based on the amount of autopsies that the Richards, Fischer, Fukumoto Medical Group is projected to conduct annually for the County, the Sheriff's Department will enlist the Group's services on a case-by-case basis, without entering into a contract.

Coroner Support Services

The Sheriff-Coroner Forensic Center in Indio does not have the staff to cover the greater Blythe area on a daily basis. Since husband and wife, Michael and Sydney Presley, own and operate the only funeral home in this area, Frye Chapel and Mortuary, they have filled a critical gap for a number of the Sheriff-Coroner's services since 1998. Michael Presley has attended the Coroners' Academy, and is qualified to investigate death scenes on the Sheriff's behalf. Further, the Presley's funeral home is the only eastern desert location where the Sheriff can store remains pending transport to Indio. Therefore, the Sheriff's Department is confident that continuation of this Agreement is a cost-effective alternative to dedicating full-time County staff to the area. Since the Presleys are the only contractors in the area with the required experience and facilities, the Sheriff recommends the County award a contract to the Presleys without offering the service purchase to competitive bid.

The Sheriff recommends the Presleys be awarded a five-year Agreement with a fixed monthly fee of \$2,500 or \$30,000 annually. County Counsel has approved the Agreement as to form.

Price Reasonableness

Dr. Freeman's fee of \$350 per case is consistent with other dentists providing the same service. Dr. Erlich has not raised her \$350 fee per case in over four years. The \$400 monthly increase in the Presley Agreement is the first increase for this contractor in five years.