

**Department of Administration
Purchasing Division**

Finance & Personnel Committee Approval Required

For Single Source Contract

Contract #E0000018652

Background:

User Department:	<u>Police</u>
Purchasing Agent:	<u>Ann Patz</u>
Contract Description:	<u>Vendor Service Contract for Domestic Violence Victim Liaison Services</u>
Vendor Name and Location:	<u>Maria Anne Rozek (Glendale, WI)</u>
Contract Term:	<u>02/03/2022 through 02/02/2027 with the option to extend annually upon mutual consent</u>
Requisition # and Date Received:	<u>Req #0000018652 Rec'd 12/28/2021</u>
Original Contract Amount:	<u>\$390,000.00</u>
Expenditures to Date:	<u>\$0.00</u>
Current Contract Amount:	<u>\$390,000.00</u>

Purpose of Contract:

The purpose of this contract is to allow the City of Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) to dispense with the competitive bidding process and enter into a Single Source Vendor Service Contract for Domestic Violence Victim Liaison Services with Maria Anne Rozek for a contract term of five (5) years from 02/03/2022 through 02/02/2027. The contract total will be \$390,000.00 for an estimated value of \$78,000.00 per year.

The vendor's compensation will be at a rate of \$50.00/hour with an average commitment of 30 hours weekly in accordance with *Vendor's Proposal dated December 2021* (Exhibit 1).

This contract will replace contract B0000014764 that was awarded via a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) procurement process which expired on 12/14/2021. The vendor's compensation was \$45.00/hour and, during the five (5) years of this contract, \$349,053.25 of the \$360,200.00 total contract value was used for the vendor's services.

Background:

Ms. Maria A. Rozek has been working with MPD since 2016. She has many established relationships in the community which allows for her to best support MPD's Sensitive Crimes Division.

Under this contract, Ms. Rozek will continue to provide comprehensive crisis response services to victims of crime and their families. Direct services will be provided to individuals of all ages, life circumstances and abilities. Many individuals to be served have a complex trauma history and additional challenges. Such as mental health issues; refugee/undocumented status; and cognitive and physical limitations.

Ms. Rozek will provide crisis response services that include in-person stabilization of trauma reactions, emotional support during police interviews and psychological education services. She will conduct in-person and telephone assessments in the aftermath of trauma for physical, emotional, psychological, interpersonal and financial needs as well as safety planning. She will also provide referrals to resources within the community such as law enforcement, child welfare and medical and legal advocacy organizations. Additional background is provided in the vendor's *Sensitive Crimes Victim Liaison* document (Exhibit 2).

City Purchasing Director

Date

F&P Presentation Date: 02/02/2022

Exhibit 1

December 2021

SENSITIVE CRIMES VICTIM ADVOCACY SERVICES PROPOSAL

CONTRACT SERVICES:

- Provision of comprehensive crisis response services to victims of crime and their families within the Sensitive Crimes Division of the City of Milwaukee Police Department;

Crisis response includes in person stabilization of trauma reactions, psychosocial education, and emotional support during police interview/accompaniment, community service referrals including forensic medical examination, and civil/criminal justice proceedings.

In person and telephone assessment of needs in aftermath of trauma – physical, emotional, psychological, interpersonal and financial as well as safety planning;

Support and connection to needed resources within community and among multidisciplinary partners such as law enforcement, child welfare, medical/legal and advocacy organizations, on local, state and federal levels;

Enhancement of victim participation in court system and assistance in strengthening evidence based prosecution.

Direct services will be provided to individuals of all ages, life circumstances, and abilities, many presenting with complex trauma history and additional challenges such as mental health issues, LGBTQ populations, refugee / undocumented status, alcohol and substance abuse, cognitive/physical/emotional limitations, among others.

- Training and outreach regarding trauma, trauma informed practices, primary/secondary victimization, impact of neurobiology on investigatory strategies, strategies to enhance victim participation in criminal justice process, resilience, and other related topics.
- Ability to forge and maintain relationships at local, state and national level with consumers and those addressing sensitive crime victimization to include law enforcement, corrections, sex offender registry, therapeutic community, non-profit service organizations, faith communities, legal/medical/child welfare representatives, among others.
- Representation of Sensitive Crimes Division and role of Sensitive Crimes Victim Advocate position in various capacities as determined by responsibilities and assigned by command staff.
- Maintain appropriate departmental documentation.
- Serve with gratitude, integrity and purpose.

COMPENSATION

In exchange for the above services, compensation would be at the rate of \$50.00/hour with an average commitment of 30 hours weekly. This rate accommodates and includes position expenses such as professional liability insurance as well as tax responsibilities. If travel is required for the position, the federal travel rate and City of Milwaukee meal/ lodging expense rate would be requested in addition to the aforementioned hourly rate. Schedule and non-worked time will be determined jointly.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Rozek, APSW, CTC

INTRODUCTION

I have served in the role of Sensitive Crimes Victim Liaison since contracted in 2016. I have varied qualifications, gleaned through years dedicated attention to issues of human violence, addressing the aftermath and impact on individuals in many capacities. I have grown through my interactions with a diverse population of clients and have simultaneously collaborated with law enforcement and multidisciplinary partners responding within the directives of their roles. This has afforded unique experiences and opportunities to interact with both individuals and systems to address the personal and societal impact of violence.

I have worked with individuals of all ages and abilities as victimization knows no boundaries. This affords a unique flexibility in offering response and addressing needs. Individuals present with a myriad of layers – mental health, coping skills, and access to support are all considered facets to moving forward to reach one's goals. My capacity to assess, triage, and respond to crisis is well-established and affords balance to any clinical team. Within the context of my varied experience, I have trained and mentored individuals to use their talents to help others, to follow in my stead. This invaluable, dedicated effort translates well to guiding and promoting an engaging, expansive internship program.

I have successfully assisted crime victims within criminal, civil, public and private sectors of the community. I have a solid knowledge base regarding systems response as well as fully developed connections within the community, forged during efforts to support individuals, extend resources and offer optimal opportunities to move forward and respond to traumatic events. I am an established source for information on victimization, interview strategies, trauma reactions, resilience and other topics.

My extensive experience responding to Sensitive Crimes in justice settings, such as the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office Sensitive Crimes and in the Domestic Violence Unit where I served as an advocate within the Victim Advocate program of Sojourner Family Peace Center offers a dedicated capacity and perspective. My ability to offer education on trauma to varied systems (Medical College of WI, Milwaukee Police Department, Department of Corrections, Aurora Sinai Medical Center Grand Rounds, among others) on behalf of diverse individuals with complex challenges, my knowledge of area resources and intervention strategies, and my capacity to manage, develop options, and offer direction and support to those responding to such issues would be of benefit to the position.

VICTIM SERVICES, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT

Throughout my endeavors addressing violence and supporting victims of crime, I have been posited in various roles that afforded the opportunity to create, implement and manage programs. I will highlight several to give an overview of my abilities; in each position throughout my career I have offered and provided a respected voice matched with the ability to carry programs forward in efforts at enhancing victim services.

I have worked with victims of child maltreatment, interpersonal violence and sexual assault since I began in the field of social welfare. I obtained my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Welfare at the University of WI-Milwaukee, with clinical rotations at Pathfinders and the Child Advocacy Center of Children's Hospital of WI; both are agencies addressing the impact of child maltreatment, sexual assault, and experiencing and/or witnessing domestic violence.

Throughout my tenure in the Sensitive Crimes Division, I have initiated and worked collaboratively with leadership and members to develop a process for victim engagement through advocacy. I worked as a team with SCD leadership to educate investigators on the psychological first aid model that is the foundation of outreach services to victims of violence. I have been a lead, guiding presence on grant projects upon request. Equally, with Internal Affairs, Academy, and Sensitive Crimes collaboration, developed and implemented a peer mentorship program to address alcohol-related incidents within department members.

I have worked alongside leadership and have been positioned as a valued community representative alongside multidisciplinary partners. I am the lead trainer of law enforcement and community partners on trauma, victimization, best practice in response to trauma, interpersonal and sexual violence from an interdisciplinary perspective, trauma-informed approaches, among other areas of expertise. I have participated in strategic, long-term planning as a community participant of the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault as well as with Pathfinders/Collaborative Rapid Advocacy for youth to address human trafficking in our community. Equally, I have been instrumental in training, advocacy and outreach within Sensitive Crimes and at the District level to address human trafficking as a member of our Federal Task Force.

Working in a crisis response environment, each day is approached with the awareness that at any moment a victim may arrive and plans for dedicated attention to specific tasks will be deferred until care is provided and the situation is stabilized with a strategy for next steps. As a result, I am very accomplished at managing time and efforts in a manner that acknowledges little control over when the next crisis may occur. I am focused, detail-oriented and organized; I identify, plan for and manage core responsibilities such that diverting attention to victim services does not derail achievement of equally important position requirements. I have found that working with the expectation that you never know when you will have to drop everything and go provides me with a sense of urgency and direction that propels me forward with clarity and purpose. I communicate my need for secure time to management and ask for support from my colleagues and team as appropriate. Equally, I offer support and a useful presence to others. Crisis response necessitates flexibility, creativity, humor and diligence; I employ all in my performance.

I have extensive legal advocacy experience in the criminal and civil justice arenas through my dedicated service to victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault while working in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office Sensitive Crimes Division, as a victim advocate for Sojourner Family Peace Center in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office Domestic Violence Unit, and at Advocates of Ozaukee as part of a rural community addressing the complexities of these issues. Equally, I have worked collaboratively with multidisciplinary partners – police, prosecution, child welfare, medical, among others – to establish cohesive, collaborative response to interpersonal violence in many capacities, such as participation on CART (Child Abuse Review Team), SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) and as a key component of a training cohort addressing the needs of multidisciplinary cooperation to support victims during investigation and prosecution through advocacy.

My legal advocacy experience encompasses everything from assisting with restraining order applications (child abuse, harassment, domestic violence and vulnerable adults); testifying as a fact and expert witness in criminal and civil court proceedings; providing advocacy and support during criminal and civil court appearances (domestic violence court, restraining order hearings, family court, Children's Court and violent crimes divisions); accompaniment during police investigations (presence during interviews, photo arrays, line-ups, composite formation, scene response); advocacy during prosecutorial case review, court support, victim impact statement assistance, and case disposition notification (domestic violence and sensitive crimes cases as well as general felony/misdemeanor); victim rights communication related to criminal court procedures, among others. I have provided legal advocacy across many roles for over 20 years.

In Sensitive Crimes, I have provided advocacy and resources to those I have assisted during an initial crisis as well as during follow up contacts to address trauma and create opportunities for systems connections and healing. My connections to victims may last days, weeks or months after initial contact, depending on the intensity of trauma reactions, the availability of support, and the involvement of criminal and civil justice systems. Crime victimization has no boundaries. I work with children, adults, individuals with special challenges – any imaginable constellation of features may be present in a given situation and I respond. I have been able to be of use, across my professional accomplishments, through creativity, directness, astute and critical examination of programming. I have used my ability to enhance, develop and manage services to individuals and communities addressing violence.

In the Sensitive Crimes Division, I have used my knowledge of community resources and my adeptness in interpersonal support to create a path forward from the initial victimization. Communication exists to empower, forge connections, share information and enhance choice and participation; it exists to give reassurance, support and to normalize experiences in the aftermath of trauma. Equally, I have experience through my work as a member of the CRAY human trafficking collaboration to offer critical assistance after day shift hours. I am able to provide support and resources to primary/secondary victims and assist with education for those endeavoring to give support to others.

Collaboration with multidisciplinary partners is a core component of advocacy and victim services. Within the context of each of my victim advocacy roles across my professional career, on a routine basis I interact with other agencies to create connections that will assist a victim in negotiating needed services and affording participation in criminal and civil justice systems. I have interactions with law enforcement; advocates from community and government programs; child welfare; behavioral health; corrections; among others. Communication is through multidisciplinary staffing, direct contact with multidisciplinary partners such as investigators, prosecutors, command staff, probation/supervising agents, community advocates, among others. Electronic messaging and written letters of advocacy and support are often utilized to further communication on behalf of a victim. I have provided support and advocacy in criminal and civil justice arenas through victim assistance as well as direct testimony and written advocacy. I have used been a spokesperson in the media at the request of various organizations – Milwaukee Police Department, Sexual Assault Treatment Center, Children's Hospital of WI, Milwaukee County District Attorney's office and the Shaken Baby Association. Each person's needs are individual. It is essential to have knowledge and community relationships that optimize positive outcomes for crime victims. There are many gaps in services; networking and outreach help to create an infrastructure of contacts and further community awareness that will assist individuals.

The significance of victim trauma is individual. At times, relating an experience of an assault by an intimate partner, a victim may dissociate completely, becomes agitated, or go numb due to the acute nature of the events. A person who has lost time due to a drug-facilitated sexual assault allows her mind to go to the infinite possibilities of what may have happened; her trauma is exacerbated by the unknown. A person who has survived repeated sexual assault by members of his own family – father, uncle, aunt, mother – who has been further victimized by a clergy member in a school environment, who has watched the victimization of the family dog, who has offended against his own cousins – his trauma is complex and replete with memories that are often unbearable and yet he works to heal and be well. A mother who trusted her child with a licensed child care provider so that she may go to work; the child is shaken to death and she endures a traumatic loss that has no end. The parent of a youth trafficked and left in another county, alone and frightened, who is finally returned to her home; her life experiences shattering her sense of self and innocence. The little boy locked in the garage in his own neighborhood, enduring incredible harm, is able to smile and color and give hugs, demonstrating resilience and hope. I have been fortunate to walk beside many individuals in dark moments of unreality, as each begins to acknowledge the trauma and how life has shifted from before to after. I am capable, in this work, and am grateful for those who have allowed me to be of support. In my service in Sensitive Crimes, I adapt and adjust to meet the needs of the Department, the Division, and the community to offer greater victim support, enhance offender accountability and promote a safer society.