



## Interoffice Memorandum

October 23, 2023

To: Mayor Jerry L. Demings  
-AND-  
County Commissioners

From:  Carrie Mathes, CFCM, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, C.P.M., Manager II,  
Procurement Division

Contact: Angela Chestang, Manager, Citizens' Commission for Children Division  
407-836-6541

SUBJECT: Approval of Contract Y24-2033, Provision of Community Services and  
Facility Use

### ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of Contract Y24-2033, Provision of Community Services and Facility Use, with She-Lion Foundation, Inc., in the total contract award amount of \$150,000 for a three-year term.

### PURPOSE:

This contract will provide funds for Credible Messenger Programming which will serve youth primarily between the ages of 10 to 25 residing in Orange County zip codes where the incidence of violent crime is the highest, helping to break the cycle and long-term impact of justice system involvement and violence in the community through transformative mentoring. The term of this contract is effective upon execution through September 30, 2026.

### FUNDING:

Funding is available in account number 0001-062-2414-8610.

### APPROVALS:

The Citizens' Review Panel for Human Services recommended She-Lion Foundation, Inc. to receive Citizens Safety Task Force funding to provide Credible Messenger Programming. The Citizens' Commission for Children Division concurs with the funding recommendation. She-Lion Foundation, Inc. has not previously received funding from the Citizens' Commission for Children Division.

### REMARKS:

In accordance with the Code of Ordinances, Part 1, Chapter 17, Article III, Section 17-286 – Application and Exclusions, agreements between the Board and nonprofit organizations are excluded from competitive procurement requirements.

Based on Citizens Safety Task Force recommendations, the Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children was charged with allocating funding to programs operated by "Credible Messengers" in the target zip codes. Credible Messengers have longstanding trusted relationships with at-risk youth in the target zip codes and a legacy of effectively encouraging and supporting youth on the path to successful adulthood. Credible Messengers are neighborhood leaders, experienced youth advocates, and individuals with relevant life experiences whose role is to help youth transform attitudes and behaviors around violence. They serve young people whose needs go far beyond the traditional mentoring approach of companionship, confidence building, and typical academic, social, or career guidance. They are able to connect with the most challenging young people because they come from the same communities; some (but not all) of them are formerly incarcerated or were involved in the justice system and have turned their lives around. They demonstrate integrity and transformation and are skilled and trained in mentoring young people.

Credible Messengers funded through this Contract have been trained in the Credible Messenger Mentoring Movement model and are nationally certified. Each Credible Messenger anticipates maintaining an average caseload of six participants throughout the year, in alignment with the Credible Messenger model.