

RESOLUTION NO. 081082

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CORONER, OR DESIGNEE(S), TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS WITH EACH CONTRACTOR LISTED IN ATTACHMENT A TO PROVIDE AS NEEDED FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES FOR THE THREE-YEAR TERM OF JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2028 AND AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,827,280, AND GRANTING A WAIVER OF THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS FOR THE PROVISION OF THE ABOVE FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES PURSUANT TO COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE SECTION 2.83.050(E)

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that:

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Coroner’s Office (“Coroner’s Office”) is required by statute to investigate and determine the cause and manner of death in all violent, sudden, or unusual deaths in the County of San Mateo and, to carry-out this statutory duty, the Coroner’s Office contracts with forensic pathologists certified by the American Board of Forensic Medicine; and

WHEREAS, there are currently fewer than 500 full-time licensed practicing, Board-certified forensic pathologists in the entire United States; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the past two-plus years, the Coroner’s Office has encountered difficulties in recruiting and retaining Board-certified forensic pathologists; and

WHEREAS, the need for reliable on-call forensic pathology services is critical, as the recognized industry standard for completion of all autopsies is within 24 hours of the death, a standard that, in certain circumstances, becomes even more pressing, such as

in cases of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, suspected homicides, and where religious-cultural practices require burial in less than 24 hours; and

WHEREAS, since November 2019, the Coroners' Office has been accredited by the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IAC&ME), which, in order to maintain accreditation, requires the Coroner's Office to complete 80% of all autopsy reports within 90 calendar days of the autopsy having been conducted; and

WHEREAS, there has been presented to this Board for its consideration approval of a Master Services Agreement authorizing the Coroner, or designee(s), to execute agreements and/or amendments for the provision of as-needed forensic pathology services with each contractor listed in Attachment A, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution and incorporated by this reference; and

WHEREAS, this Board has previously waived the competitive bidding process for the provision of forensic pathology services and continues to find it is in the best interests of the County to waive the competitive bidding process for each agreement with the listed contractors entered into under the Master Service Agreement pursuant to County Ordinance Code 2.83.050(e), as forensic pathologists are specifically exempt from the competitive bidding process under County Administrative Memorandum B-1, Section IV.B.15, and, furthermore, because the Coroner's Office is required to use Board-certified forensic pathologists in order to maintain its IAC&ME accreditation and there are fewer than 500 Board-certified forensic pathologies in the entire United States; and

WHEREAS, the combined maximum fiscal obligation under all agreements entered into under the Master Service Agreement for the term of July 1, 2025 through

June 30, 2028 (“Term”) shall not exceed \$2,827,280, which is within the three-year budgeted amount for forensic pathology services approved by this Board and equal to the contracted not-to-exceed amount for such services previously authorized by this Board; and

WHEREAS, prior to the Coroner, or designee(s), executing agreements and/or amendments with the contractors listed in Attachment A, documentation shall be obtained and retained confirming that all such agreements and/or amendments have been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney, Risk Management, and Information Services Department, wherever applicable, and that such agreements and/or amendments comply with applicable County ordinances.

WHEREAS, the Coroner’s Office continues to encounter difficulties in recruiting and retaining Board-certified forensic pathologists, and the Board desires to allow the Coroner’s Office to add (or remove) qualified forensic pathologists to (or from) Attachment A, as needed, during the Term and subject to the maximum fiscal obligation of \$2,827,280, which change will allow the Coroner’s Office to comply with its statutory duties surrounding the timely death investigations without having to return to this Board each time a Board-certified forensic pathologist is added to (or removed from) Attachment A; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Coroner’s Office is authorized to enter into agreements with the contractors listed in Attachment A of this Resolution, and/or to amend agreements now in place with said contractors, during the Term for an aggregate not-to-exceed amount of \$2,827,280, and a waiver of competitive bidding

requirements for the agreements and/or amendments is granted pursuant to County Ordinance Code 2.83050(e).

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coroner's Office is authorized to add (or remove) qualified forensic pathologists to (or from) Attachment A, as needed, during the Term and subject to the maximum fiscal obligation of \$2,827,280.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coroner's Office is authorized to enter into additional amendments with each contractor identified in Attachment A of this Resolution which modify the County's maximum fiscal obligation by no more than \$25,000 for each agreement (in total \$200,000), and/or modify the Term and/or services so long as the modified term or services is/are within the current or revised fiscal provisions.

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