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Subject: Status-Consultant to Assist in Contract Negotiations and Master Planning Services Consultant Ranking
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 1:59:45 PM
Attachments: [RFO #2011-175 Legal Consultant to Assist with Negotiation of Contracts \(254 KB\).msg](#)
Importance: High

To All:
Status report on the above referenced projects:

1-Consultant to Assist in Contract Negotiations- Three (3) statements of qualifications received today at the Purchasing Department (list attached hereto). On Monday, July 18, 2011, Hon. Ramon Garcia, Hidalgo County Judge requested a meeting with purchasing staff (particularly those charged with negotiation duties) along with Mrs. Yolanda Chapa. Discussions focused on the need to engage assistance through a consultant that has "expertise" in the areas of architecture and engineering. Matching of services/tasks/work required by user departments to reasonable and customary fees and charges is (in the Judge's view) crucial in negotiating a final agreement that is in the best interest of the County and vendor and is vigilant of budgetary factors/constraints. The Purchasing Staff gained very important insight from the Judge's comments and rationale. In the end, we believe that the better approach will be to secure consulting services contracts with architectural and engineering firms. This would require (in my opinion) changing the focus from legal services to assist in negotiating to engaging an architectural and engineering firms as consultants with the condition that neither firms or individual professionals CANNOT contract with Hidalgo County for any other projects. In addition, we will eliminate possible duplication of legal services by both the assistant district attorney and legal counsel for CC. I will place an item on next week's agenda to give CC the option to proceed with the submitted Statements of Qualifications received today (but as yet unopened) or to reject and cancel the present procurement and re-advertise and new Request for Qualifications under the optional format/approach described. Please keep in mind that this is a new pilot project for the County and the first attempt may not suit the ultimate intent of the Court.

2-Master Planning Services Consultant for Courthouse-On June 14, 2011, CC took action to nominate three (3) architectural firms from the County's approved pool. To date only four of the five scoring sheets have been returned. It appears that the fifth and last scores will be forwarded to the Purchasing Department today. An agenda item will be placed on next Tuesday's CC agenda to rank the firms and proceed to negotiate a consulting services contract. Purchasing staff will attempt to finalize an agreement as soon as possible in order get approval by CC. Thereafter a "workshop" can be scheduled to discuss and direct the firm on priorities and options dealing with the Courthouse, the City of Edinburg, need for urgent space to accommodate new courtrooms and departments housed in leased facilities.

If you require any further information or assistance regarding these matters, please feel free to contact me at 956-292-7611 or 956-789-7233.

Yours truly,

Marty Salazar

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