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AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – September 08, 2020

AI Number: 77222

Project Number: 2020-491

Information: The digital advertisement campaign drive was used in an effort to reach the public distancing requirements during the 4th of July celebrations.

Description of AI: (A) Exemption from Competitive Bidding

Funding Source: CARES Act Relief Fund (TBD) **Acct. #** 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-540

Requested by: Sandra De Leon

Department: County Judge

Prepared by: Tanya De Lira, Contract Specialist II **Department:** Purchasing Department

BACKGROUND

On March 17, 2020, pursuant to the authority under Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency due to the imminent threat arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 22, 2020, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Hidalgo County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster.

Advertising campaign was used as another method of public awareness to prevent and mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 Virus.

COMPLIANCE

Discretionary exemptions are authorized by the Texas Local Government Code 262.024 (a) states “a contract for the purchase of any of the following items is exempt from the requirement established by the section 262.023 if the commissioners court by order grants the exemption.” This request is being made under LGC 262.024 (a) (1): an item that must be purchased in case of a public calamity if it is necessary to make the purchase promptly to relieve the necessity of the citizens; (2) an item necessary to preserve and protect the public health and safety of the citizens.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County’s intended purpose to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The goal is to provide sufficient and effective public service announcements and information in light of digital technology. Hidalgo County Judges’ office and Health

Department are taking the lead in responding to the COVID-19 health emergency for our community as a whole.

AGENDA ITEM CAPTION

- A. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve a necessary CARES Act Relief Fund expenditure to cover cost not accounted for in the current budget and cannot be lawfully funded by line item, allotment or allocation, for the **Hidalgo County Advertising Campaign**, in order to assist with County functions related to medical and public health measures addressing the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing, herein finds that such expenditure is reasonable and necessary for the intended use.
- B. Requesting exemption from competitive bidding requirements under the Texas Local Government Code, under LGC 262.024 (a) (1): an item that must be purchased in case of a public calamity if it is necessary to make the purchase promptly to relieve the necessity of the citizens; (2) an item necessary to preserve and protect the public health and safety of the citizens.
- C. Requesting authority of claim for AIM with authority for County Treasurer to issue payment after reviewing and auditing procedures are completed by County Auditor.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval of the items will allow the Hidalgo County Health Department to proceed with securing the laboratory design necessary to address the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Recommending that Commissioners Court authorize the exemption for said advertising campaign services as stated as they are reasonable and necessary expenditures related to the County's COVID-19 Public Health Response. Expenditures will be charged to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Relief Grant Fund and/or other grant assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Attachments:
