

## AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court –October 27, 2020

AI Number: 77941

Project Number: 2020-603

**Information:** [Requesting authority to authorize a discretionary exemption for Work Stations and Office Furniture *in order to assist with County actions to facilitate compliance with public health measures addressing the ongoing COVID 19 emergency.*]

**Description of AI:** Requesting authority to purchase Office Furniture

**Funding Source:** CARES Act Relief Fund

**Acct. #** 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-753

**Acct #** 0-1100-412-00-080-002-0-610

**Requested by:** Rosalinda Cantu for DA's Office

**Department:** District Attorney's Office

**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.

Hidalgo County Offices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency has identified a need to implement measures to distance staff in various divisions by adding cubicles and office furniture which will serve as medians between the personnel.

The 2010 Census has indicated that Hidalgo County has a low to moderate income level of 54.75% and the Texas Department of State Health Services estimated Hidalgo County's population to be 1,005,539. To facilitate compliance with current public health measures related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the goal of the DA's Office is to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency. The DA's office will implement measures to distance staff in various divisions by adding cubicles and office furniture which will serve as medians between the personnel. The separation created by the cubicles will minimize the need for prolonged close proximity between staff in the confined areas. In effect, the setup of the staff in these areas at time is not ideal to contain the spread of infectious diseases.

### COMPLIANCE

In compliance with the national preparedness goal under the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8), the Homeland Security Presidential Directives 5 (HSPD-5) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capability 12 and pursuant to the 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, request the Court's approval for the necessary Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's response to COVID-19 while continuing to provide necessary services to mitigate, control and manage the spread of the virus.

## **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 District Attorney's Office Furniture Purchase], in order to implement the distancing 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 requirement under TxLGC 262.024 (a)(1) and (2) as attached herein;

C. Requesting approval to purchase office furniture from Gateway through the County's membership/participation with OMNIA Cooperative under Contract #R191804 for the County DA's Office in the total amount of \$12,850.38 and office cubicles in the amount of \$73,607.86.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approval of the items will allow Hidalgo County to continue to respond to the current public health emergency of COVID-19. As previously stated, with these large impoverished population and continued incurred case search; therefore, this is deemed a reasonable and necessary expenditure related to the County's COVID-19 Public Health Response. Expenditures will be charged to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and/or other assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Attachments:

Sam.gov

Form 1295

Form 213

Omnia Contract