#### **CITY OF EVANSTON**

#### **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**NUMBER: 23-35** 

For

#### **INSURANCE BROKER SERVICES**

May 11, 2023



PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 2:00 P.M., June 13, 2023

PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING: Non-mandatory

11:00 am, May 18, 2023

Room 2404

**Loraine Morton Civic Center** 

2100 Ridge Ave,

**Evanston, Illinois 60201** 

#### **ELECTRONIC BID SUBMITTAL:**

Bid responses will only be accepted electronically via E-bidding through DemandStar (<u>WWW.DEMANDSTAR.COM</u>)

It is highly recommended that new DemandStar users complete the account setup process prior to project due date/time.

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#### CITY OF EVANSTON

#### **NOTICE TO PROPOSERS**

Proposals will be received by the Purchasing Office until 2:00 P.M. local time on **June 13**, **2023**. Effective immediately, the City of Evanston will no longer accept hard copy paper submittals for any solicitation. Responses will only be accepted electronically via E-bidding through DemandStar (www.demandstar.com). Although registration is required, vendors can download solicitations and upload responses for free. Proposals shall cover the following:

# Insurance Broker Services Property, Casualty, and Workers Compensation Program RFQ Number: 23-35

The City of Evanston's Finance and Law Departments seek proposals from licensed Insurance Brokers and/or Agents for the purpose of providing independent, professional insurance brokerage services for the City's Property, Casualty and Workers Compensation Insurance Program.

There will be a non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 11:00 A.M. in room 2404 of the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201. All firms intending to submit a proposal for this project are encouraged to attend to discuss the proposed work and receive answers to relevant questions.

The above item shall conform to the RFQ on file in the Purchasing Office. Parties interested in submitting a proposal should contact the Purchasing Office to receive a copy of the RFQ or see the City's website at: <a href="www.cityofevanston.org/business/bids-proposals/">www.cityofevanston.org/business/bids-proposals/</a> or Demandstar at: <a href="www.demandstar.com">www.demandstar.com</a>.

The City (the City of Evanston) in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, hereby notifies all firms that it will affirmatively ensure that the contract(s) entered into pursuant to this notice will be awarded to the successful firm without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation marital status, disability, familial status or national origin. The City of Evanston reserves the right to reject any or all submittals or to accept the submittal(s) deemed most advantageous to the City.

The Evanston City Council also reserves the right to award the contract to an Evanston firm if that firm's bid is within 5% of the low bid.

Each Proposer shall be required to submit with his/her proposal a Disclosure of Ownership Interest Statement Form in accordance with Section 1-18-1 *et seq.* of the City Code. Failure to submit such information may result in the disqualification of such proposal.

Linda Thomas Purchasing Specialist

## CITY OF EVANSTON Request for Qualifications

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City seeks qualifications for an experienced, responsible, and professional firm to serve as a broker for the City's property, casualty and workers compensation insurance programs for the 2024 renewal period. The successful firm will assume responsibility for developing a high-quality property & casualty submission that will accurately present the City's exposures and comprehensive risk management program to commercial underwriters for current and future insurance placements. The selected firm will provide services that ensure the City receives high quality insurance services to reduce the City's overall exposures, while employing a reasonable level of fiscal responsibility.

The contract term desired is for a period of one (1) year with two (2) additional one (1)-year options to renew.

Contact with City personnel in connection with this RFQ shall not be made other than as specified in this RFQ. Unauthorized contact of any City personnel may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Prior to the submittal of a proposal, Proposers are advised to carefully examine

- the contract documents
- project scope and work tasks to be accomplished
- specifications
- submittal requirements
- insurance requirements and required documentation

Proposers are advised to become thoroughly familiar with all conditions, instructions and specifications governing this RFQ. Proposals shall be made in accordance with these instructions. Proposals shall be submitted on the forms provided by the City

The City will not be liable in any way for any costs incurred by respondents in replying to this Request for Proposal.

#### 2.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES

The selected firm will work with the Corporation Counsel; Chief Finance Officer; and Safety and Worker's Compensation Manager on all renewal strategies and placements for the City's property and casualty insurance program, including but not limited to: excess workers' compensation; general liability; law enforcement liability; public official's liability; excess liability; auto; property; boiler & machinery; crime and cyber coverages.

The selected firm will be responsible for the comprehensive marketing, evaluation, and service of the insurance placements listed below. They will also consult on coverage interpretation, cost containment strategies, safety/risk reduction

strategies, regulatory compliance with local, state and federal authorities and cost recovery (subrogation) associated with damages to City property or third-party claims brought against the City.

Coverage: including:

Property (first-party),

Flood

Inland Marine Boiler & Machinery

General Liability

Employee Benefits Liability

Automobile Liability

Auto Physical Damage

Law Enforcement Liability

Pollution/Underground Storage Tank

**Public Officials Liability** 

**Employment Practices Liability** 

Workers' Compensation

Crime & Fidelity

Public Officials Bonds

Excess Liability

Drone

Cyber Liability

#### 3.0 INSURANCE

Consultant shall carry and maintain at its own cost with such companies as are reasonably acceptable to City all necessary liability insurance (which shall include as a minimum the requirements set forth below) during the term of this Agreement, for damages caused or contributed to by Consultant, and insuring Consultant against claims which may arise out of or result from Consultant's performance or failure to perform the Services hereunder.

The consultant must provide an insurance certificate naming the City of Evanston as an additional insured and will provide a variety of insurances including:

comprehensive general liability - \$3,000,000 combined single limit for each occurrence for bodily injury and property damage – designating the City as Additional Insured

Workers Compensation - Statutory Limits

Automobile Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence for all claims arising out of bodily injuries or death and property damages.

errors and omissions or professional liability insurance - \$1,000,000

The surety and the insurance company must have not less than an A+ rating from the Alfred M. Best Co., Inc. and be approved by the City of Evanston.

Consultant's certificate of insurance shall contain a provision that the coverage afforded under the policy(s) will not be canceled or reduced without thirty (30) days prior written notice (hand delivered or registered mail) to City.

#### **4.0 SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

The City will no longer accept hard copy paper submittals for any solicitation. Responses will only be accepted electronically via E-bidding through DemandStar. Respondents are still required to complete all of the bid documents and provide all of the requested information in a pdf file(s). Please refer to attached DemandStar e-bidding documents.

ANY PROPOSALS RECEIVED AFTER THE SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, WILL BE NOT BE ACCEPTED. It is the sole responsibility of the proposer to ensure that his or her proposal is delivered by the stated time. THE CITY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR IMCOMPLETE UPLOADED SUBMITTALS.

#### A. Cover Letter

The cover letter will include the following:

- introduction of firm signed by an authorized Principal of the firm
- name of firm
- address of firm
- phone number of the firm submitting the proposal
- include the name and signature of an authorized binding official who is authorized to answer questions regarding the firm's proposal

#### B. Qualifications and Experience of Firm and/or Team

- All respondents shall describe other contracts (at least 5, but no more than10) similar in scope, size or discipline to the required services described herein, performed, or undertaken within the past five years.
- The respondent must provide references, including name, address and telephone number of a contact person for each project identified and described.
- Indicate commencement dates, duration, and type of operation.
- Provide a list of all Municipal clients in Illinois.

#### C. Area/Regional Manager(s)

Clearly identify the professional staff person(s) who would be assigned as your Area/Regional Manager(s) and provide resumes. The proposal should indicate the abilities, qualifications, and experience of these individuals.

#### D. Fees - N/A

Provide a copy of your fees/prices on the attached price/costs form (see page XX).

#### E. Contract

The City has attached its standard contract in Exhibit O (see page 29–Professional Services Agreement). Identify all exceptions to the agreement that would prevent your Firm from executing it. The City shall not consider or

negotiate regarding exceptions submitted at any time after the submission of the Proposer's response.

#### **5.0 ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Completion of a questionnaire, responsive to the following questions:

- Total number of government entities; library's, park districts, villages, cities, or towns your firm currently handles property and casualty insurance brokerage services for in Illinois, United States of America and North America.
- Provide evidence of the firm's experience in providing service for others insured with coverage or programs comparable to the City's, as well as a description of any underwriting procedures or special plans which have been used to serve other accounts.
- What is your firm's estimated annual insurance premium volume from handling government entities; villages, library's, cities, or towns property and casualty insurance clients in Illinois, USA, and North America? How many of these municipal client's premiums are in excess of \$200,000?
- How many municipal clients does your firm currently handle with our current insurance carriers?
- The awarded broker will be responsible for the selection of the TPA. Describe the range of the claims management services provided by the servicing office and your firm and your experience working with third party claims administration firms.
- Describe any safety programs, loss control, training and other technical services/resources available from your firm. Please provide cost indications for the 12/31/23 to 12/31/24 term. Cost must include complete broker remuneration (commissions and/or fees) and include all potential contingency/enhanced/supplemental commissions that could be collected.
- What other services does your firm provide that you believe sets you apart from other insurance brokerage firms.

#### 6.0 M/W/D/EBE GOALS

The City has a goal of 25% of the contract amount for the participation and utilization of Minority-Owned, Women-Owned, Disadvantaged and Evanston-based businesses (M/W/D/EBEs) in completing a portion of the services required by the City. All respondents must submit a statement of the proposed involvement of M/W/D/EBEs in completing a portion of the required services. Provide a copy of the certification for M/W/D/EBEs that will assist in achieving the M/W/D/EBE goal with your submittal as well as the appropriate M/W/D/EBE forms or Request for Waiver. Any questions regarding M/W/D/EBE compliance should be submitted in writing to Tammi Nunez Purchasing Manager at <a href="mailto:tnunez@cityofevanston.org">tnunez@cityofevanston.org</a>.

#### 7.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The City will select the successful firm through an evaluation process based on the firm meeting the specifications which are outlined in this RFQ. A review committee will review in detail all proposals that are received. During the evaluation process, the City may require a Proposer's representative to answer questions with regard to the proposal and/or make a formal presentation to the review committee. The review committee will make a recommendation to award the contract based on the criteria set forth below. This contract will be forwarded to the City Council for final approval.

The evaluation criteria listed below will be used in the selection of the successful Proposer.

- **A.** Qualifications and Expertise
- B. Price
- **C.** Organization and Completeness of Proposal
- **D.** Willingness to Execute the City of Evanston's Professional Services Agreement
- E. M/W/D/EBE Participation

#### **8.0 SELECTION PROCESS**

The City will select a firm on the basis of the responsiveness of the proposal to the RFQ submittal requirements, the evaluation criteria stated above and the demonstrated willingness to execute an acceptable written contract. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, and to request written clarification of proposals and supporting materials from the Proposer.

While it is the intent of the City to award a single firm, the City reserves the right to award in part or in whole and to select multiple firms and/or individuals, depending on whichever decision is deemed to be most advantageous to the City.

Responses may be rejected if the firm fails to perform any of the following:

- **A.** Adhere to one or more of the provisions established in this Request for Qualifications.
- **B.** Demonstrate competence, experience, and the ability to provide the services described in this Request for Qualifications.
- **C.** Submit a response on or before the deadline and complete all required forms.
- **D.** To fulfill a request for an oral presentation.
- **E.** To respond to a written request for additional information.

Discussions and/or interviews may be conducted with responsible firms that have submitted proposals in order to clarify certain elements. All proposals shall be afforded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for clarification. In conducting discussion, there shall be no disclosure of information derived from proposals submitted by competing firms. The selection shall be done by the City's review committee and will be recommended to the City Council for final approval.

If the City is unable to reach any sort of agreement with the selected firm, the City will discontinue negotiations with the selected firm and begin negotiations with the firm ranked second and so on until agreement is reached.

The firm to be recommended to the City Council will be the one whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the City in consideration of price and all other evaluation factors which are set forth in this Request for Qualifications. No other factors or criteria not listed in this RFQ shall be used in the evaluation.

#### 9.0 PROPOSED SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule for this RFQ and project process is as follows:

1.	RFQ issued	May 11, 2023
2.	Non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference	
		May 18, 2023
3.	Last Day to submit questions	
4.	Final Addendum Issued	<u>June 1, 2023</u>
5.	RFQ Submission Due Date	June 13, 2023
6.	Interviews	<u>June 20 – 30, 2023</u>
7.	City Council Award of Contract	July 24 or August 14, 2023
8.	Contract Effective	September 1, 2023

#### 10.0 QUESTIONS REGARDING RFQ

All questions related to this RFQ should be submitted in writing to Linda Thomas, Purchasing Specialist at <a href="mailto:lithomas@cityofevanston.org">lithomas@cityofevanston.org</a> with a copy to Nicholas Cummings, Corporation Counsel at <a href="mailto:ncummings@cityofevanston.org">ncummings@cityofevanston.org</a>

#### 11.0 GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

#### A. Confidentiality

In connection with this Agreement, City may provide Consultant with information to enable Consultant to render the Services hereunder, or Consultant may develop confidential information for City. Consultant agrees (i) to treat, and to obligate Consultant's employees to treat, as secret and confidential all such information whether or not identified by City as confidential, (ii) not to disclose any such information or make available any reports, recommendations and /or conclusions which Consultant may make for City to any person, firm or corporation or use the same in any manner whatsoever without first obtaining City's written approval, and (iii) not to disclose to City any information obtained by Consultant on a confidential basis from any third party unless Consultant shall have first received written permission from such third party to disclose such information.

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/7(2), records in the possession of others whom the City has contracted with to perform a governmental function are covered by the Act and subject to disclosure within limited statutory timeframes (five (5) working days with a possible five (5) working day extension). Upon notification from the City that it has received a

Freedom of Information Act request that calls for records within the Consultant's control, the Consultant shall promptly provide all requested records to the City so that the City may comply with the request within the required timeframe. The City and the Consultant shall cooperate to determine what records are subject to such a request and whether or not any exemption to the disclosure of such records or part thereof is applicable.

The Purchasing Specialist will endeavor to advise the firm of any request for the disclosure of the material so marked with "TRADE SECRET". "CONFIDENTIAL", or "PROPRIETARY", and give the firm or other submitting party the opportunity to seek a court order to protect such materials from disclosure. If the requested material was submitted by a party other than the firm, then the firm shall be solely responsible for notifying the submitting party of the request. The City's sole responsibility is to notify the firm of the request for disclosure, and the City shall not be liable for any damages resulting out of such disclosure, whether such disclosure is deemed required by law, by an order of court or administrative agency, or occurs through inadvertence, mistake, negligence on the part of the City or its officers, or employees.

#### **B.** Withdrawal of Proposal

Proposals may be withdrawn prior to the submittal deadline. Withdrawal may be attained by written request; however, no offer can be withdrawn within the ninety (90) day period which occurs after the time is set for closing. Proposers who withdraw their proposals prior to the designated date and time may still submit another proposal if done in accordance with the proper time frame.

#### C. Exceptions to Specifications

Exceptions to these specifications shall be listed and explained on a separate page titled "Exceptions to Specifications", which shall be prepared by the Proposer. This page shall then be attached to these documents and submitted at the same time as the proposal. Each exception must refer to the page number and paragraph to which it is relevant. The nature and reasoning of each exception shall be explained in its entirety. Any exceptions to these specifications may be cause for rejection of the proposal.

#### D. Hold Harmless

Consultant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City and its officers, elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees from any and all liability, losses, or damages as a result of claims, demands, suits, actions, or proceedings of any kind or nature, including but not limited to costs, and fees, including attorney's fees, judgments or settlements, resulting from or arising out of any negligent or willful act or omission on the part of the Consultant or Consultant's sub-contractors, employees, agents or sub-contractors during the performance of this Agreement. Such indemnification shall not be limited by reason of the enumeration of any insurance coverage herein provided. This provision shall survive completion, expiration, or termination of this Agreement.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting the City, or its officers, agents, or employees, from defending through the selection and use of

their own agents, attorneys, and experts, any claims, actions or suits brought against them. The Consultant shall be liable for the costs, fees, and expenses incurred in the defense of any such claims, actions, or suits. Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation or waiver of defenses available to the City and employees and agents, including but not limited to the Illinois Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, 745 ILCS 10/1-101 et seq.

At the City Corporation Counsel's option, Consultant must defend all suits brought upon all such Losses and must pay all costs and expenses incidental to them, but the City has the right, at its option, to participate, at its own cost, in the defense of any suit, without relieving Consultant of any of its obligations under this Agreement. Any settlement of any claim or suit related to this Agreement by Consultant must be made only with the prior written consent of the City Corporation Counsel, if the settlement requires any action on the part of the City.

To the extent permissible by law, Consultant waives any limits to the amount of its obligations to indemnify, defend, or contribute to any sums due under any Losses, including any claim by any employee of Consultant that may be subject to the Illinois Workers Compensation Act, 820 ILCS 305/1 et seq. or any other related law or judicial decision, including but not limited to, Kotecki v. Cyclops Welding Corporation, 146 III. 2d 155 (1991). The City, however, does not waive any limitations it may have on its liability under the Illinois Workers Compensation Act, the Illinois Pension Code or any other statute.

Consultant shall be responsible for any losses and costs to repair or remedy work performed under this Agreement resulting from or arising out of any act or omission, neglect, or misconduct in the performance of its Work or its subconsultants' work. Acceptance of the work by the City will not relieve the Consultant of the responsibility for subsequent correction of any such error, omissions and/or negligent acts or of its liability for loss or damage resulting therefrom. All provisions of this Section shall survive completion, expiration, or termination of this Agreement.

#### E. Addenda

Any and all changes to these documents are valid only if they are included via written addendum to all respondents. Each respondent should acknowledge receipt of any addenda by indicating same in their proposal submission. Each respondent acknowledging receipt of any addenda is responsible for the contents of the addenda and any changes to the proposal therein. Failure to acknowledge any addenda may cause the proposal to be rejected. Addenda information is available over the internet at <a href="City of Evanston Notices & Documents">City of Evanston Notices & Documents</a> or <a href="www.demandstar.com">www.demandstar.com</a>, or by contacting the Purchasing Office, 847-866-2935.

#### F. Term

The contract is for one (1) year. The City may terminate a contract for either cause or convenience.

#### **G.** Non-Appropriation of Funds

The City of Evanston reserves the right to terminate in whole or in part of the contract in the event that insufficient funds to complete the contract are appropriated by Evanston City Council.

#### H. Property of the City

All discoveries and documents produced as a result of any service or project undertaken on behalf of the City of Evanston shall become the property of the City.

#### I. Payment Terms

The consultant shall submit invoices detailing the services provided, project, professional staff, and hours. Payment shall be made in accordance with the Local Government Prompt Payment Act. Please note that failure to provide a detailed invoice could result in delay of payment and include termination of any agreement.

#### J. Disclosures and Potential Conflicts of Interest

The City of Evanston's Code of Ethics prohibits public officials or employees from performing or participating in an official act or action with regard to a transaction in which he has or knows he will thereafter acquire an interest for profit, without full public disclosure of such interest. This disclosure requirement extends to the spouse, children and grandchildren, and their spouses, parents and the parents of a spouse, and brothers and sisters and their spouses.

To ensure full and fair consideration of all proposals, the City of Evanston requires all Proposers including owners or employees to investigate whether a potential or actual conflict of interest exists between the Proposer and the City of Evanston, its officials, and/or employees. If the Proposer discovers a potential or actual conflict of interest, the Proposer must disclose the conflict of interest in its proposal, identifying the name of the City of Evanston official or employee with whom the conflict may exist, the nature of the conflict of interest, and any other relevant information. The existence of a potential or actual conflict of interest does NOT, on its own, disqualify the disclosing Proposer from consideration. Information provided by Proposers in this regard will allow the City of Evanston to take appropriate measures to ensure the fairness of the proposal process.

The City requires all Proposers to submit a certification, enclosed with this RFQ, that the Proposer has conducted the appropriate investigation and disclosed all potential or actual conflicts of interest.

#### K. Protests

Any actual or prospective Proposer, who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of a contract, may protest to the Purchasing Office. The

protest shall be submitted in writing within ten (10) calendar days after such aggrieved person knows or should have known of the facts giving rise thereto.

- The Proposer shall submit any protests or claims regarding this solicitation to the Purchasing Office.
- A pre-bid protest must be filed five (5) days before the bid opening or proposal submittal.
- A pre-award protest must be filed no later than ten (10) days after the bid opening date or proposal deadline.
- A post-award protest must be filed no later than ten (10) days after the award of the Contract.

All claims by a Proposer against the City relating to a contract shall be submitted in writing to the Purchasing Specialist. The City will only consider protests that are properly and timely submitted.

All protests or claims must set forth the name and address of the protester, the contract number, the grounds for the protest or claim, and the course of action that the protesting party desires the Purchasing Specialist to take. Statements shall be sworn and submitted under penalty of perjury.

#### L. Authority To Resolve Protests And Contract Claims

*Protests:* The Purchasing Specialist shall have the authority to consider and resolve a protest of an aggrieved Proposer, actual or prospective, concerning the solicitation or award of a contract. The City shall issue a written decision and that decision is final.

Contract Claims: The Purchasing Specialist, after consulting with Corporation Counsel, shall have the authority to resolve contract claims, subject to the approval of the City Manager or City Council, as applicable, regarding any settlement that will result in a change order or contract modification.

Each Proposer, by submitting a response to this RFQ, expressly recognizes the limitations on its rights to protest provided in this Section and expressly waives all other rights and remedies and agrees that the decision on the protest is final and conclusive. If a Proposer disregards, disputes or does not follow the exclusive protest remedies provided in this Section, it shall indemnify and hold the City and its officers, employees, agents and consultants harmless from and against all liabilities, fees and costs, including legal and consultant fees and costs, and damages incurred or suffered as a result of such Proposer's actions. Each Proposer, by submitting a response to this RFQ, shall be deemed to have irrevocably and unconditionally agreed to this indemnity obligation.

#### M. Litigation

For purposes of this Section, the following terms are defined as follows:

"issue" means any prior or pending litigation or investigation, either civil or criminal, or any governmental agency action or proceeding (the "issue"), which may affect the performance of the services to be rendered herein. For purposes

of this Section, an "issue" shall also include any criminal, civil, or administrative penalty or finding imposed against any covered individual. An issue occurring within seven (7) years of the date preceding the date of the Proposer's response shall be disclosed by the Proposer.

"covered individual" means any principal, president, managing partner, or vicepresident, affiliated in anyway with the Firm, and the Firm's employees or subcontractors.

All proposers shall identify and describe with particularity any issue. The City, and not Proposer, has the sole discretion to determine whether an issue may affect the performance of the services. Failure of any Proposer to comply with this mandatory obligation shall, at the City's sole discretion, result in the Proposer's response being deemed non-responsive and not responsible. Failure of any Proposer to comply with the obligation specified herein may result in the voiding any subsequent contract award to Proposer if the City discovers upon the exercise of its customary due diligence that Proposer failed to comply with the mandatory obligation in this Section. The City reserves all rights to take any other actions in the case of a Proposer's noncompliance with this Section.

#### N. Sub-contractors

If any firm submitting a proposal intends on sub-contracting out all or any portion of the engagement, that fact, and the name of the proposed sub-contracting firm(s) must be clearly disclosed in the proposal. Following the award of the contract, no additional sub-contracting will be allowed without the prior written consent of the City of Evanston.

#### O. Contact with City Personnel

All Proposers are prohibited from making any contact with the City Manager, City Council, or any other official or employee of the City with regard to the Project, other than in the manner and to the person(s) designated herein. The Purchasing Specialist reserves the right to disqualify any Proposer found to have contacted City Personnel in any manner with regard to the Project. Additionally, if it is determined that the contact with City Personnel was in violation of any provision of 720 ILCS 5/33EE, the matter may be referred to the Cook County State's Attorney for review and prosecution.

#### P. Costs Incurred

The City of Evanston assumes no responsibility or liability for costs incurred by the Proposer prior to the execution of a contract. This includes costs incurred by the Proposer as a result of preparing a response to this RFQ.

## Exhibit A

#### **DISCLOSURE OF OWNERSHIP INTERESTS**

The City of Evanston Code Section 1-18-1 *et seq.* requires all persons (APPLICANT) seeking to do business with the City to provide the following information with their proposal. Every question must be answered. If the question is not applicable, answer with "NA".

APPL	ICANT NAME:				
APPL	ICANT ADDRESS:				
TELE	PHONE NUMBER:				
FAX N	NUMBER:				
( ) ( ) ( )	ICANT is ( <b>Check One</b> Corporation Partnership Sole Owner Association	<b>)</b>			
Other	()				
Please	e answer the following	g questions on a se	parate attached s	sheet if necessar	y.
		SECTION I - CO	DRPORATION		
1a.	Names and address	es of all Officers ar	nd Directors of Co	rporation.	
1b.	(Answer only if cor Names and address 3% of the proportion (Note: Corporations material required her	es of all those sha ate ownership inte which submit S.E.0	reholders owning erest and the perc	shares equal to centage of share	holder interest.

1c.	(Answer only if corporation has fewer than 33 shareholders.) Names and addresses of all shareholders and percentage of interest of each hereir (Note: Corporations which submit S.E.C. form 10K may substitute that statement for the material requested herein.)				
	SECTION 2 - PARTNERSHIP/ASSOCIATION/JOINT VENTURE				
2a.	The name, address, and percentage of interest of each partner whose interests therein whether limited or general, is equal to or in excess of 3%.				
2b.	Associations: The name and address of all officers, directors, and other members with 3% or greater interest.				
	SECTION 3 - TRUSTS				
3a.	Trust number and institution.				
3b.	Name and address of trustee or estate administrator.				
3c.	Trust or estate beneficiaries: Name, address, and percentage of interest in total entity.				

## **SECTION 4 - ALL APPLICANTS - ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE**

4a. 		ests disclosed in Section 1, 2, or 3 are being held by an agent name and address of principal.
4b.	other "holding" entity not	Section 1,2, or 3 is being held by a "holding" corporation or an individual, state the names and addresses of all parties interest in that "holding" corporation or entity as required in the component of the corporation of
4c.	party, give name and add	any interest named in Sections 1,2, 3, or 4 is held by another ress of party with constructive control. ("Constructive control" of through voting trusts, proxies, or special terms of venture of
	e not withheld disclosure of urrent.	any interest known to me. Information provided is accurate
Date		Signature of Person Preparing Statement
		Title
ATTE Comr	ST:  Notary Public  mission Expires:	(Notary Seal)

## Exhibit B

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SHEET**

Proposal Name:
Proposal Number #:
Company Name:
Contact Name:
Address:
City,State, Zip:
Telephone/FAX: #
E-mail:
Comments:

#### **Exhibit C**

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM**

, hereby certifies that it has
conducted an investigation into whether an actual or potential conflict of interest exists between the bidder, its owners and employees and any official or employee of the City of Evanston.
Proposer further certifies that it has disclosed any such actual or potential conflict of interest and acknowledges if bidder/Proposer has not disclosed any actual or potential conflict of interest, the City of Evanston may disqualify the bid/proposal.
(Name of Bidder/Proposer if the Bidder/Proposer is an Individual) (Name of Partner if the Bidder/Proposer is a Partnership) (Name of Officer if the Bidder/Proposer is a Corporation)
The above statements must be subscribed and sworn to before a notary public. Subscribed and Sworn to this day of, 20
Notary Public
Failure to complete and return this form may be considered sufficient reason for rejection of the bid / proposal.

#### Exhibit D

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

#### THE SECTION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL AND SIGNED

The undersigned hereby certifies that they have read and understand the contents of this solicitation and attached service agreements, and agree to furnish at the prices shown any or all of the items above, subject to all instructions, conditions, specifications and attachments hereto. Failure to have read all the provisions of this solicitation shall not be cause to alter any resulting contract or to accept any request for additional compensation. By signing this document, the Proposer hereby certifies that they are not barred from bidding on this contract as a result of bid rigging or bid rotating or any similar offense (720 ILCS S/33E-3, 33E-4).

Authorized Signature:	Company Name:	
Typed/Printed Name:	Date:	
Title:	Telephone Number:	
Email:	Fax Number:	

## Exhibit E

## ANTI-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT AND PROPOSER'S CERTIFICATION

	, being first duly sworn,
dep	
1	(Partner, Officer, Owner, Etc.)
of	<u> </u>
	(Partner, Officer, Owner, Etc.)  (Proposer)
or sinding not community that interest The	party making the foregoing proposal or bid, that such bid is genuine and not collusive, sham; that said bidder has not colluded, conspired, connived or agreed, directly or rectly, with any bidder or person, to put in a sham bid or to refrain from bidding, and has in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement or collusion, or immunication or conference with any person; to fix the bid price element of said bid, or of of any other bidder, or to secure any advantage against any other bidder or any person rested in the proposed contract.  Undersigned certifies that he is not barred from bidding on this contract as a result of a viction for the violation of State laws prohibiting bid-rigging or bid-rotating.
The	(Name of Bidder if the Bidder is an Individual) (Name of Partner if the Bidder is a Partnership) (Name of Officer if the Bidder is a Corporation)  above statements must be subscribed a sworn to before a notary public.
Sub	scribed and Sworn to this day of, 20
 Nota	ary Public
Con	nmission Expires:
Fail the	ure to complete and return this form may be considered sufficient reason for rejection of bid.

#### **EXHIBIT F**

#### CITY OF EVANSTON M/W/D/EBE POLICY

A City of Evanston goal is to provide contracting and sub-contracting opportunities to Minority Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, Disadvantaged and Evanston Business Enterprises. The goal of the Minority, Women, Disadvantaged and Evanston Business Enterprise Program (M/W/D/EBE) is to assist such businesses with opportunities to grow. To assist such growth, the City's goal is to have general contractors utilize M/W/D/EBEs to perform no less than 25% of the awarded contract.

Firms bidding on projects with the City must work to meet the 25% goal or request a waiver from participation. It is advised that bidders place advertisements requesting subcontractors and that they email or contact individual firms that would be appropriate to partner in response to the project. For samples of possible advertisements, see the City of Evanston's Business Diversity Section <a href="http://www.cityofevanston.org/business/business-diversity/">http://www.cityofevanston.org/business/business-diversity/</a> (Sample Advertisement ). If you request a paper copy of the additional documents, it will be available free of charge from the Purchasing Office, 2100 Ridge Road Suite 4200, Evanston, IL 60201.

If a bidder is unable to meet the required M/W/D/EBE goal, the Bidder must seek a waiver or modification of the goal on the attached forms. Bidder must include:

- 1. A narrative describing the Bidder's efforts to secure M/W/D/EBE participation prior to the bid opening.
- 2. Documentation of each of the assist agencies that were contacted, the date and individual who was contacted, and the result of the conversation (see form)
- 3. A letter attesting to instances where the bidder has not received inquiries/proposals from qualified M/W/D/EBEs
- 4. Names of owners, addresses, telephone numbers, date and time and method of contact of qualified M/W/D/EBE who submitted a proposal but was not found acceptable.
- 5. Names of owners, addresses, telephone numbers, date and time of contact of at least 15 qualified M/W/D/EBEs the bidder solicited for proposals for work directly related to the Bid prior to the bid opening (copies must be attached).

If a bidder is selected with a Sub-contractor listed to meet the M/W/D/EBE goal, a "monthly utilization report" will be due to the City prior to each payment being issued to the Contractor. This report will include documentation of the name of the firm hired, the type of work that firm performed, etc. Should the M/W/D/EBE not be paid according to the schedule proposed in this document, the City reserves the right to cancel the contract. Examples of this monthly form can be found on the Citv's website: http://www.cityofevanston.org/business/business-diversity/ (MWDEBE Monthly Utilization Report).

## **EXHIBIT G**

#### M/W/D/EBE PARTICIPATION COMPLIANCE FORM

i do n	ereb	by certify that						
partic	ipate	e as a Subcontractor or	Ger	neral Contractor	on the p		of firm) intended	
<b>F</b> 5	,				, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
This fi	irm i	s a (check only one):						
		Minority Business controlled by a min						aged and
		Women's Business controlled by a wor						aged and
		Disadvantaged Bumanaged and conf within Illinois.						
		Evanston Based E of one year and wh						minimum
Total	prop	oosed price of response	9		\$			
Amou	nt to	be performed by a M/	W/D	/EBE	\$			
Perce	ntag	ge of work to be perforn	ned l	by a M/W/D/EBE	Ξ			%
Inform	natio	on on the M/W/D/EBE U	Jtilize	ed:				
	Na	me						
	Add	dress						
	Pho	one Number						
	Sig	nature of firm attesting	to p	articipation				
	Titl	e and Date						
	Тур	pe of work to be perforr	med					
Pleas 1.	e att Pro	·	umer	ntation if apply	ing as	a M/W/DE	BE and ch	
		Cook County Federal Certification City of Chicago		State Certificat Women's Bus Chicago Minori	siness	Enterprise lier Develop	National oment Cour	Council ncil

23

2. Attach business license if applying as an EBE

## **EXHIBIT G**

#### M/W/D/EBE UTILIZATION SUMMARY REPORT

The following Schedule accurately reflects the value of each MBE/WBE/DBE/EBE subagreement, the amounts of money paid to each to date, and this Pay Request. The total proposed price of response submitted is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

MBE/WBE/DBE/EBE FIRM NAME	FIRM TYPE (MBE/WBE/ DBE/EBE)	SERVICES PERFORMED	AMOUNT OF SUB- CONTRACT	PERCENT OF TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
TOTAL			\$	

## Exhibit H

## M/W/D/EBE PARTICIPATION WAIVER REQUEST

I am		of		, a	nd I have a	uthority to
	(Title)		(Name of Firm)			
execute thi	s certification	on behalf of th	ne firm. I			do
				(Name)		
hereby cert	tify that this fir	n seeks to wa	nive all or part of this	s M/W/D/EBE	: paritcipatio	n goal
for the follo	wing reason(s	):				
(CHECK A		PPLY. SPEC	CIFIC SUPPORTIN	IG DOCUME	NTATION	MUST BE
	1. No M/W/	D/EBEs respo	onded to our invitati	on to bid.		
	2. An insuff	icient number	of firms responded	I to our invitat	ion to bid.	
	For #1	& 2, please բ	provide a narrativ	e describing	the outre	ach efforts
	from y	our firm a	nd proof of co	ontacting at	least 15	qualified
	M/W/D/	EBEs prior	to the bid open	ing. Also	o, please	attach the
	accom	oanying form	n with notes re	egarding co	ntacting t	he Assist
	Agenci	es.				
	3. No sub-o	ontracting opposite	portunities exist.			
	Please pr	ovide a writ	tten explanation	of why su	b-contracti	ng is not
	feasible.					
	4. M/W/D/E	BE participati	on is impracticable			
	Please pr	ovide a writte	en explanation of	why M/W/D	/EBE parti	cipation is
	impractica	ble.				
Therefore,	we request to	waivec	of the 25% utilizatio	n goal for a re	evised goal	of%.
Signature:		(Signature)		D	ate:	

#### **EXHIBIT I**

M/W/D/EBE Assistance Organizations ("Assist Agencies") Form

	nce Organizations	("Assist Agencies")	Form
AGENCY	DATE	CONTACT	RESULT OF
	CONTACTED	PERSON	CONVERSATION
Association of Asian Construction			
Enterprises (AACE)			
5500 Touhy Ave., Unit K			
Skokie, IL. 60077			
Phone: 847-525-9693			
Perry Nakachii, President			
Black Contractors United (BCU)			
400 W. 76th Street			
Chicago, IL 60620			
Phone: 773-483-4000;			
Fax: 773-483-4150			
Email: bcunewera@ameritech.net			
Chicago Minority Business			
Development Council			
105 West Adams Street			
Chicago, Illinois 60603			
Phone: 312-755-8880;			
Fax: 312-755-8890			
Email: info@chicagomsdc.org			
Shelia Hill, President			
Evanston Minority Business			
Consortium, Inc.			
P.O. Box 5683			
Evanston, Illinois 60204			
Phone: 847-492-0177			
Email: embcinc@aol.com			
Federation of Women Contractors			
5650 S. Archer Avenue			
Chicago, Illinois 60638			
Phone: 312-360-1122;			
Fax: 312-360-0239			
Email: FWCChicago@aol.com			
Contact Person: Beth Doria			
Maureen Jung, President			
Hispanic American Construction			
Industry (HACIA)			
901 W. Jackson, Suite 205			
Chicago, IL 60607			
Phone: 312-666-5910;			
· ·			
Fax: 312-666-5692			
Email: info@haciaworks.org			
Women's Business Development Ctr.			
8 S. Michigan Ave, Suite 400			
Chicago, Illinois 60603			
Phone: 312-853-3477 X220;			
Fax: 312-853-0145			
Email: wbdc@wbdc.org			
Carol Dougal, Director			

PLEASE NOTE: Use of M/W/D/EBE Assistance Organizations ("Assist Agencies") Form and agencies are for use as a resource only. The agencies and or vendors listed are not referrals or recommendations by the City of Evanston.

#### **Exhibit J**

#### **Professional Services Agreement Acknowledgement Page**

The City has attached its standard professional services agreement as an exhibit to this RFQ. Identify all exceptions to the agreement that would prevent your firm from executing it. The City shall not consider or negotiate regarding exceptions submitted at any time after the submission of the Proposer's response. Please check one of the following statements: \_\_I have read the professional services agreement and plan on executing the agreement without any exceptions. My firm cannot execute the City's standard professional service agreement unless the exceptions noted below or in the attached sample professional services agreement are \*\*\*Please be aware that submitting exceptions to the contract may impact the likelihood of your firm being selected to perform this work. List exceptions in the area below: Authorized Company Signature: Name: Typed/Printed Name and Title: Date:

#### **Exhibit J**

#### **Consultant Certification and Verification**

I certify in accordance with the Professional Services Agreement, the agents, employees and subcontractors of [CONSULTANT FIRM] are in compliance and will comply with City work rules and policies applicable to City employees while they are on City property, including the City's Workplace Harassment Policy; COVID-19 Vaccination Policy; and Sexual Harassment Policy. I further certify that the agents, employees and subcontractors of [CONSULTANT FIRM] are in compliance with OSHA emergency temporary standard to protect workers from coronavirus.

CONSULTANT	•
Ву	
lts:	
FEIN Number:	
Date:	

## Exhibit J



## CITY OF EVANSTON

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

The parties referenced herein desire to enter into an agreement for professional services for

SCIVIC	65 101
	[Insurance Broker Services]
	("the Project")
	RFQ Number: 23-35
corpo referro offices Comp	THIS AGREEMENT (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") entered into this
I.	COMMENCEMENT DATE
	Consultant shall commence the Services on or no later than three (3) DAYS AFTER City executes and delivers this Agreement to Consultant.
II.	COMPLETION DATE  Consultant shall complete the Services by If this Agreement provides for renewals after an initial term, no renewal shall begin until agreed to in writing by both parties prior to the completion date of this Agreement.
III.	PAYMENTS

City shall pay Consultant those fees as provided here: Payment shall be made upon the completion of each task for a project, as set forth in Exhibit A – Project Milestones and Deliverables. Any expenses in addition to those set forth here must be specifically approved by the City in writing in advance.

#### IV. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Consultant shall perform the services (the "Services") set forth here: Services are those as defined in Exhibit A, the City's Request for Proposal/Qualifications No. # (Exhibit B) and Consultant's Response to the Proposal (Exhibit C). Services may include, if any, other documented discussions and agreements regarding scope of work and cost (Exhibit D).

#### V. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Α. Services. Consultant shall perform the Services in a professional and workmanlike manner. All Services performed and documentation (regardless of format) provided by Consultant shall be in accordance with the standards of reasonable care and skill of the profession, free from errors or omissions, ambiguities, coordination problems, and other defects. Consultant shall take into account any and all applicable plans and/or specifications furnished by City, or by others at City's direction or request, to Consultant during the term of this Agreement. All materials, buildings, structures, or equipment designed or selected by Consultant shall be workable and fit for the intended use thereof. and will comply with all applicable governmental requirements. shall require its employees to observe the working hours, rules, security regulations and holiday schedules of City while working and to perform its Services in a manner which does not unreasonably interfere with the City's business and operations, or the business and operations of other tenants and occupants in the City which may be affected by the work relative to this Agreement. Consultant shall take all necessary precautions to assure the safety of its employees who are engaged in the performance of the Services, all equipment and supplies used in connection therewith, and all property of City or other parties that may be affected in connection therewith. If requested by City, Consultant shall promptly replace any employee or agent performing the Services if, in the opinion of the City, the performance of the employee or agent is unsatisfactory.

Consultant is responsible for conforming its final work product to generally accepted professional standards for all work performed pursuant to this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement accords any third-party beneficiary rights whatsoever to any non-party to this Agreement that any non-party may seek to enforce. Consultant acknowledges and agrees that should Consultant or its sub-consultants provide false information, or fail to be or remain in compliance with this Agreement; the City may void this Agreement. The Consultant warrants and states that it has read the Contract Documents, and

agrees to be bound thereby, including all performance guarantees as respects Consultant's work and all indemnity and insurance requirements.

The Consultant shall obtain prior approval from the City prior to sub-contracting with any entity or person to perform any of the work required under this Agreement. If the Consultant sub-contracts any of the services to be performed under this Agreement, the sub-consultant agreement shall provide that the services to be performed under any such agreement shall not be sublet, sold, transferred, assigned or otherwise disposed of to another entity or person without the City's prior written consent. The Consultant shall be responsible for the accuracy and quality of any sub-consultant's work.

All sub-consultant agreements shall include verbatim or by reference the provisions in this Agreement binding upon Consultant as to all Services provided by this Agreement, such that it is binding upon each and every sub-consultant that does work or provides Services under this Agreement.

The Consultant shall cooperate fully with the City, other City contractors, other municipalities and local government officials, public utility companies, and others, as may be directed by the City. This shall include attendance at meetings, discussions and hearings as requested by the City. This cooperation shall extend to any investigation, hearings or meetings convened or instituted by the City, any of its departments, and/or OSHA relative to this Project, as necessary. Consultant shall cooperate with the City in scheduling and performing its Work to avoid conflict, delay in or interference with the work of others, if any, at the Project.

Except as otherwise provided herein, the nature and scope of Services specified in this Agreement may only be modified by a writing approved by both parties. This Agreement may be modified or amended from time to time provided, however, that no such amendment or modification shall be effective unless reduced to writing and duly authorized and signed by the authorized representatives of the parties.

- **B.** Representation and Warranties. Consultant represents and warrants that: (1) Consultant possesses and will keep in force all required licenses to perform the Services; (2) the employees of Consultant performing the Services are fully qualified, licensed as required, and skilled to perform the Services.
- **C. Breach/Default.** Any one of the following events shall be deemed an event of default hereunder by Consultant, subject to Consultant's right to cure:
  - 1. Failure to perform the Services as defined in Paragraph A above and contained within Exhibit A:
  - 2. Failure to comply with any other of the General Provisions contained within this contract.

Consultant, within thirty (30) days, shall have the right to cure any default

herein listed at its own expense, including completion of Services or the replacement or termination of any agent, employee, or sub-contractor as a result of any violation of the General Provisions contained herein.

- **D.** Remedy. City does not waive any right to exercise any option to cure any breach or default on the part of contractor, including but not limited to injunctive relief, an action in law or equity or termination of this Agreement as outlined in Paragraph E of this section.
- E. **Termination.** City may, at any time, with or without cause, terminate this Agreement upon seven (7) days written notice to Consultant. If the City terminates this agreement, the City will make payment to Consultant for Services performed prior to termination. Payments made by the City pursuant to this Agreement are subject to sufficient appropriations made by the City of Evanston City Council. In the event of termination resulting from nonappropriation or insufficient appropriation by the City Council, the City's obligations hereunder shall cease and there shall be no penalty or further payment required. In the event of an emergency or threat to the life, safety or welfare of the citizens of the City, the City shall have the right terminate this Agreement without prior written notice. Within thirty (30) days of termination of this Agreement, the Consultant shall turn over to the City any documents, drafts, and materials, including but not limited to, outstanding work product, data, studies, test results, source documents, AutoCAD Version 2007, PDF, ARTView. Word. Excel spreadsheets, technical specifications calculations, and any other such items specifically identified by the City related to the Services herein.
- F. **Independent Consultant.** Consultant's status shall be that of an independent Consultant and not that of a servant, agent, or employee of City. Consultant shall not hold Consultant out, nor claim to be acting, as a servant, agent or employee of City. Consultant is not authorized to, and shall not, make or undertake any agreement, understanding, waiver or representation on behalf of City. Consultant shall at its own expense comply with all applicable workers compensation, unemployment insurance, employer's liability, tax withholding, minimum wage and hour, and other federal, state, county and municipal laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and orders. Consultant shall require its employees to observe the working hours, rules, security regulations and holiday schedules of City, including but not limited to all policies and work rules applicable to City employees while on City property such as the Workplace Harassment Policy; COVID-19 Vaccination Policy; and Drug and Alcohol Policy. Consultant agrees to abide by the Occupational Safety & Health Act of 1970 (OSHA), and as the same may be amended from time to time, applicable state and municipal safety and health laws and all regulations pursuant thereto. Consultant shall certify that its agents, employees and subcontractors are in compliance with City work rules applicable to City employees while on City property. Failure to certify or violation of work rules is subject to the Default provisions of Paragraph C.

- **G.** Conflict of Interest. Consultant represents and warrants that no prior or present services provided by Consultant to third parties conflict with the interests of City in respect to the Services being provided hereunder except as shall have been expressly disclosed in writing by Consultant to City and consented to in writing to City.
- Н. Ownership of Documents and Other Materials. All originals, duplicates and negatives of all plans, drawings, reports, photographs, charts, programs, specimens, specifications, AutoCAD Version 2007, spreadsheets, PDF, and other documents or materials required to be furnished by Consultant hereunder, including drafts and reproduction copies thereof, shall be and remain the exclusive property of City, and City shall have the unlimited right to publish and use all or any part of the same without payment of any additional royalty, charge, or other compensation to Consultant. Upon the termination of this Agreement, or upon request of City, during any stage of the Services, Consultant shall promptly deliver all such materials to City. Consultant shall not publish, transfer, license or, except in connection with carrying out obligations under this Agreement, use or reuse all or any part of such reports and other documents, including working pages, without the prior written approval of City, provided, however, that Consultant may retain copies of the same for Consultant's own general reference.
- I. Payment. Invoices for payment shall be submitted by Consultant to City at the address set forth above, together with reasonable supporting documentation, City may require such additional supporting documentation as City reasonably deems necessary or desirable. Payment shall be made in accordance with the Illinois Local Government Prompt Payment Act, after City's receipt of an invoice and all such supporting documentation.
- J. Right to Audit. Consultant shall for a period of three years following performance of the Services, keep and make available for the inspection, examination and audit by City or City's authorized employees, agents or representatives, at all reasonable time, all records respecting the services and expenses incurred by Consultant, including without limitation, all book, accounts, memoranda, receipts, ledgers, canceled checks, and any other documents indicating, documenting, verifying or substantiating the cost and appropriateness of any and all expenses. If any invoice submitted by Consultant is found to have been overstated, Consultant shall provide City an immediate refund of the overpayment together with interest at the highest rate permitted by applicable law, and shall reimburse all of City's expenses for and in connection with the audit respecting such invoice.
- K. Indemnity. Consultant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City and its officers, elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees from any and all liability, losses, or damages as a result of claims, demands, suits, actions, or proceedings of any kind or nature, including but not limited to costs, and fees, including attorney's fees, judgments or settlements, resulting from or arising out of any negligent or willful act or omission on the part of the Consultant or Consultant's sub-contractors, employees, agents or sub-

contractors during the performance of this Agreement. Such indemnification shall not be limited by reason of the enumeration of any insurance coverage herein provided. This provision shall survive completion, expiration, or termination of this Agreement.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting the City, or its officers, agents, or employees, from defending through the selection and use of their own agents, attorneys, and experts, any claims, actions or suits brought against them. The Consultant shall be liable for the costs, fees, and expenses incurred in the defense of any such claims, actions, or suits. Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation or waiver of defenses available to the City and employees and agents, including but not limited to the Illinois Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, 745 ILCS 10/1-101 et seq.

At the City Corporation Counsel's option, Consultant must defend all suits brought upon all such Losses and must pay all costs and expenses incidental to them, but the City has the right, at its option, to participate, at its own cost, in the defense of any suit, without relieving Consultant of any of its obligations under this Agreement. Any settlement of any claim or suit related to this Agreement by Consultant must be made only with the prior written consent of the City Corporation Counsel, if the settlement requires any action on the part of the City.

To the extent permissible by law, Consultant waives any limits to the amount of its obligations to indemnify, defend, or contribute to any sums due under any Losses, including any claim by any employee of Consultant that may be subject to the Illinois Workers Compensation Act, 820 ILCS 305/1 et seq. or any other related law or judicial decision, including but not limited to, Kotecki v. Cyclops Welding Corporation, 146 III. 2d 155 (1991). The City, however, does not waive any limitations it may have on its liability under the Illinois Workers Compensation Act, the Illinois Pension Code or any other statute.

Consultant shall be responsible for any losses and costs to repair or remedy work performed under this Agreement resulting from or arising out of any act or omission, neglect, or misconduct in the performance of its Work or its subconsultants' work. Acceptance of the work by the City will not relieve the Consultant of the responsibility for subsequent correction of any such error, omissions and/or negligent acts or of its liability for loss or damage resulting therefrom. All provisions of this Section shall survive completion, expiration, or termination of this Agreement.

L. Insurance. Consultant shall carry and maintain at its own cost with such companies as are reasonably acceptable to City all necessary liability insurance (which shall include as a minimum the requirements set forth below) during the term of this Agreement, for damages caused or contributed to by Consultant, and insuring Consultant against claims which may arise out of or result from Consultant's performance or failure to perform the Services hereunder: (1) worker's compensation in statutory limits and employer's

liability insurance in the amount of at least \$500,000, (2) comprehensive general liability coverage, and designating City as additional insured for not less than \$3,000,000 combined single limit for bodily injury, death and property damage, per occurrence, (3) comprehensive automobile liability insurance covering owned, non-owned and leased vehicles for not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit for bodily injury, death or property damage, per occurrence, and (4) errors and omissions or professional liability insurance respecting any insurable professional services hereunder in the amount of at least \$1,000,000. Consultant shall give to the City certificates of insurance for all Services done pursuant to this Agreement before Consultant performs any Services, and, if requested by City, certified copies of the policies of insurance evidencing the coverage and amounts set forth in this Section. The City may also require Consultant to provide copies of the Additional Insured Endorsement to said policy (ies) which name the City as an Additional Insured for all of Consultant's Services and work under this Agreement. limitations or modification on the certificate of insurance issued to the City in compliance with this Section that conflict with the provisions of this Section shall have no force and effect. Consultant's certificate of insurance shall contain a provision that the coverage afforded under the policy(s) will not be canceled or reduced without thirty (30) days prior written notice (hand delivered or registered mail) to City. Consultant understands that the acceptance of certificates, policies and any other documents by the City in no way releases the Consultant and its sub-contractors from the requirements set forth herein. Consultant expressly agrees to waive its rights, benefits and entitlements under the "Other Insurance" clause of its commercial general liability insurance policy as respects the City. In the event Consultant fails to purchase or procure insurance as required above, the parties expressly agree that Consultant shall be in default under this Agreement, and that the City may recover all losses, attorney's fees and costs expended in pursuing a remedy or reimbursement, at law or in equity, against Consultant.

Consultant acknowledges and agrees that if it fails to comply with all requirements of this Section, that the City may void this Agreement.

M. Confidentiality. In connection with this Agreement, City may provide Consultant with information to enable Consultant to render the Services hereunder, or Consultant may develop confidential information for City. Consultant agrees (i) to treat, and to obligate Consultant's employees to treat, as secret and confidential all such information whether or not identified by City as confidential, (ii) not to disclose any such information or make available any reports, recommendations and /or conclusions which Consultant may make for City to any person, firm or corporation or use the same in any manner whatsoever without first obtaining City's written approval, and (iii) not to disclose to City any information obtained by Consultant on a confidential basis from any third party unless Consultant shall have first received written permission from such third party to disclose such information.

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/7(2), records in the possession of others whom the City has contracted with to perform a

governmental function are covered by the Act and subject to disclosure within limited statutory timeframes (five (5) working days with a possible five (5) working day extension). Upon notification from the City that it has received a Freedom of Information Act request that calls for records within the Consultant's control, the Consultant shall promptly provide all requested records to the City so that the City may comply with the request within the required timeframe. The City and the Consultant shall cooperate to determine what records are subject to such a request and whether or not any exemption to the disclosure of such records or part thereof is applicable. Vendor shall indemnify and defend the City from and against all claims arising from the City's exceptions to disclosing certain records which Vendor may designate as proprietary or confidential. Compliance by the City with an opinion or a directive from the Illinois Public Access Counselor or the Attorney General under FOIA, or with a decision or order of Court with jurisdiction over the City, shall not be a violation of this Section.

- N. Use of City's Name or Picture of Property. Consultant shall not in the course of performance of this Agreement or thereafter use or permit the use of City's name nor the name of any affiliate of City, nor any picture of or reference to its Services in any advertising, promotional or other materials prepared by or on behalf of Consultant, nor disclose or transmit the same to any other party.
- O. No Assignments or Sub-contracts. Consultant shall not assign or sub-contract all or any part or its rights or obligations hereunder without City's express prior written approval. Any attempt to do so without the City's prior consent shall, at City's option, be null and void and of no force or effect whatsoever. Consultant shall not employ, contract with, or use the services of any other architect, interior designer, engineer, consultant, special contractor, or other third party in connection with the performance of the Services without the prior written consent of City.
- P. Compliance with Applicable Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations. In performing the Services, Consultant shall comply with all applicable federal, state, county, and municipal statutes, ordinances and regulations, at Consultant's sole cost and expense, except to the extent expressly provided to the contrary herein. Whenever the City deems it reasonably necessary for security reasons, the City may conduct at its own expense, criminal and driver history background checks of Consultant's officers, employees, subcontractors, or agents. Consultant shall immediately reassign any such individual who in the opinion of the City does not pass the background check.
- Q. Liens and Encumbrances. Consultant, for itself, and on behalf of all sub-contractors, suppliers, materialmen and others claiming by, through or under Consultant, hereby waives and releases any and all statutory or common law mechanics' materialmen's' or other such lien claims, or rights to place a lien upon City property or any improvements thereon in connection with any Services performed under or in connection with this Agreement. Consultant further agrees, as and to the extent of payment made hereunder, to execute a

sworn affidavit respecting the payment and lien releases of all sub-contractors, suppliers and materialmen, and a release of lien respecting the Services at such time or times and in such form as may be reasonably requested by City. Consultant shall protect City from all liens for labor performed, material supplied or used by Consultant and/or any other person in connection with the Services undertaken by consultant hereunder, and shall not at any time suffer or permit any lien or attachment or encumbrance to be imposed by any sub-consultant, supplier or materialmen, or other person, firm or corporation, upon City property or any improvements thereon, by reason or any claim or demand against Consultant or otherwise in connection with the Services.

- R. Notices. Every notice or other communication to be given by either party to the other with respect to this Agreement, shall be in writing and shall not be effective for any purpose unless the same shall be served personally or by United States certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, addressed if to City as follows: City of Evanston, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201, Attention: Purchasing Division and to Consultant at the address first above set forth, or at such other address or addresses as City or Consultant may from time to time designate by notice given as above provided.
- **S.** Attorney's Fees. In the event that the City commences any action, suit, or other proceeding to remedy, prevent, or obtain relief from a breach of this Agreement by Consultant, or arising out of a breach of this Agreement by Consultant, the City shall recover from the Consultant as part of the judgment against Consultant, its attorneys' fees and costs incurred in each and every such action, suit, or other proceeding.
- **T. Waiver.** Any failure or delay by City to enforce the provisions of this Agreement shall in no way constitute a waiver by City of any contractual right hereunder, unless such waiver is in writing and signed by City.
- U. Severability. In the event that any provision of this Agreement should be held void, or unenforceable, the remaining portions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.
- V. Choice of Law. The rights and duties arising under this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Illinois. Venue for any action arising out or due to this Agreement shall be in Cook County, Illinois. The City shall not enter into binding arbitration to resolve any dispute under this Agreement. The City does not waive tort immunity by entering into this Agreement.
- **W.** Time. Consultant agrees all time limits provided in this Agreement and any Addenda or Exhibits hereto are of essence to this Agreement. Consultant shall continue to perform its obligations while any dispute concerning the Agreement is being resolved, unless otherwise directed by the City.
- X. Survival. Except as expressly provided to the contrary herein, all provisions of this Agreement shall survive all performances hereunder including the termination of the Consultant.

#### VI. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

In the event of the Consultant's noncompliance with any provision of Section 1-12-5 of the Evanston City Code, the Illinois Human Rights Act or any other applicable law, the Consultant may be declared non-responsible and therefore ineligible for future contracts or sub-contracts with the City, and the contract may be cancelled or voided in whole or in part, and such other sanctions or penalties may be imposed or remedies invoked as provided by statute or regulation.

During the performance of the contract, the Consultant agrees as follows:

- **A.** That it will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin or ancestry, or age or physical or mental disabilities that do not impair ability to work, and further that it will examine all job classifications to determine if minority persons or women are underutilized and will take appropriate affirmative action to rectify any such underutilization. Consultant shall comply with all requirements of City of Evanston Code Section 1-12-5.
- **B.** That, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by it on its behalf, it will state that all applicants will be afforded equal opportunity without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, or disability.

### VII. SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

The Consultant certifies pursuant to the Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/2105 *et. seq.)*, that it has a written sexual harassment policy that includes, at a minimum, the following information:

- **A.** The illegality of sexual harassment;
- **B.** The definition of sexual harassment under State law;
- **C**. A description of sexual harassment utilizing examples;
- **D.** The Consultant's internal complaint process including penalties;
- **E.** Legal recourse, investigation and complaint process available through the Illinois Department of Human Rights and the Human Rights Commission, and directions on how to contact both; and
- **F.** Protection against retaliation as provided to the Department of Human Rights.

#### VIII. CONSULTANT CERTIFICATIONS

- **A.** Consultant acknowledges and agrees that should Consultant or its subconsultant provide false information, or fails to be or remain in compliance with the Agreement, the City may void this Agreement.
- **B.** Consultant certifies that it and its employees will comply with applicable provisions of the U.S. Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1201 et seq.) and applicable rules in performance under this Agreement.
- **C.** If Consultant, or any officer, director, partner, or other managerial agent of Consultant, has been convicted of a felony under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, or a Class 3 or Class 2 felony under the Illinois Securities Law of 1953, Consultant certifies at least five years have passed since the date of the conviction.
- **D.** Consultant certifies that it has not been convicted of the offense of bid rigging or bid rotating or any similar offense of any State in the U.S., nor made any admission of guilt of such conduct that is a matter of record. (720 ILCS 5/33 E-3, E-4).
- **E.** In accordance with the Steel Products Procurement Act, Consultant certifies steel products used or supplied in the performance of a contract for public works shall be manufactured or produced in the U.S. unless the City grants an exemption.
- **F.** Consultant certifies that it is properly formed and existing legal entity, and as applicable, has obtained an assumed name certificate from the appropriate authority, or has registered to conduct business in Illinois and is in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State.
- **G.** If more favorable terms are granted by Consultant to any similar governmental entity in any state in a contemporaneous agreement let under the same or similar financial terms and circumstances for comparable supplies or services, the more favorable terms shall be applicable under this Agreement.
- **H.** Consultant certifies that it is not delinquent in the payment of any fees, fines, damages, or debts to the City of Evanston.

### IX. INTEGRATION

This Agreement, together with Exhibits A, B, C, and D sets forth all the covenants, conditions and promises between the parties with regard to the subject matter set forth herein. There are no covenants, promises, agreements, conditions or understandings between the parties, either oral or written, other than those contained in this Agreement. This Agreement has been negotiated and entered into by each party with the opportunity to consult with its counsel regarding the terms therein. No portion of the Agreement shall be construed against a party due to the fact that one party drafted that particular portion as the rule of *contra proferentem* shall not apply.

In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement, and any Exhibits, this Agreement shall control over the Exhibits. In no event shall any proposal or contract

form submitted by Consultant be part of this Agreement unless agreed to in a writing signed by both parties and attached and referred to herein as an Addendum, and in such event, only the portions of such proposal or contract form consistent with this Agreement and Exhibits hereto shall be part hereof.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the parties hereto have each approved and executed this Agreement on the day, month and year first above written.

CONSULTANT:	CITY OF EVANSTON 2100 RIDGE AVENUE EVANSTON, IL 60201
Ву:	By: Luke Stowe
Its:	Its: City Manager
FEIN Number:	Date:
Date:	Approved as to form:
	Ву:
	Nicholas E. Cummings Its: Corporation Counsel

Revision: April 2021

### **EXHIBIT A – Project Milestones and Deliverables**

	EXHIBIT A to that certain Consulting Agreement dated between the City of ston, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois, 60201("City") and
("Con	sultant") sets forth the Commencement and Completion Date, Services, Fees, and bursable Expenses as follows:
I.	COMMENCEMENT DATE:
II.	COMPLETION DATE:
III.	FEES:
IV.	SERVICES/SCOPE OF WORK:
	As defined in RFQ # (Exhibit B) and Consultants Response to Proposal (Exhibit C)
	Dated:

### **EXHIBIT K**

### PROPOSAL BOND SUBMITTAL LABEL (If Applicable)

SUBMITTAL NUMBER:	
SUBMITTAL NAME:	
SUBMITTAL DUE DATE/TIME: _	
COMPANY NAME:	
COMPANY ADDRESS:	
COMPANY TELEPHONE #:	

### Registering for DemandStar



We are pleased to announce our membership in the DemandStar network. DemandStar is an online marketplace that connects our suppliers directly to the bids, quotes and RFPs that matter to them.

DemandStar is open and accessible to all businesses and provides instant access to our solicitations. By registering for your complimentary DemandStar account, you will receive:

- Instant access to bids, quotes and RFPs
- Automatic notifications, right to you inbox, of bids that match the commodity codes you select
- The ability to quickly view the contractual terms and scope of work
- All the forms and documents you need in one place
- Access to more government bids in neighboring cities, counties and states

It's EASY! Get started with these 3 easy steps!

### **1 REGISTER**

Go to:

https://www.demandstar.com/registration

### Create an Account with DemandStar

You are one step away from picking your free government agency

#### **Email Address**

Your email address here

#### **Company Name**

Your company name here

☐ I accept the DemandStar Terms of Use and Privacy Policy

Next

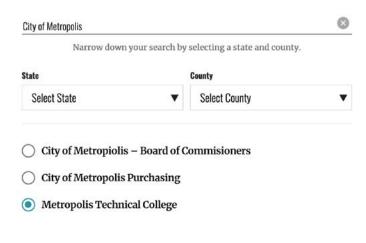


### 2 CHOOSE YOUR FREE AGENCY

Type in the name of the government agency you'd like to add, for example "City of Metropolis" in the Search Box



Receive full access to the government agency of your choice and receive advance notifications of new opportunities.



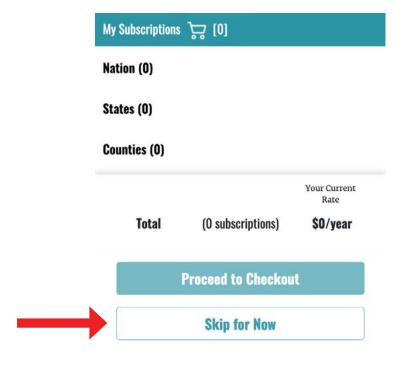
### **3 CHECK OUT**

Check out with your **FREE AGENCY**Registration by clicking "Skip for now" on the page where it gives you options to add additional counties and States

You have chosen Metropolis Technical College as your free agency.

Add additional government agencies below for \$25 per County,

Statewide and National subscriptions available.



SIGN UP

Visit www.demandstar.com





## Introduction

To submit a bid electronically (e-bidding) on DemandStar

 The project MUST be setup for e-bidding by the government agency advertising the opportunity

Bid Identifier	Agency Name	Bid Status	<b>Broadcast Date</b>	Date Due ▼	Name	Actions	
RFP-2019-01- 0-2019/df	Town of Malabar	Active	5/15/2019	15/31/JIIIU	Malabar Parks and Recreation Board Memorial Wall Project	Planholders, Download/Order, Details	
EBID- 20190077-0- 2019/HF	City of Port St. Lucie, Procurement Management Department	Active	4/25/2019	5/31/2010	Purchase Breaching "Backpa Gas Masks and Gas Mask Cartridg s for the Police Department JAG Grant Funded	E-Bidding, Planholders, Download/Order, Details	

## How to check if it is an e-bidding opportunity

- Not all opportunities posted on DemandStar by government are available for e-bidding
- Those that are available for you to electronically bid will list "e-bidding" as an available "ACTION" when you look at the project details

1. Click on "E-bidding" in the actions column

Bid Identifier	Agency Name	Bid Status	<b>Broadcast Date</b>	Date Due ▼	Name	Actions	
RFP-2019-01- 0-2019/df	Town of Malabar	Active	5/15/2019		Malabar Parks and Recreation Board Memorial Wall Project	Planholders, Download/Order, Details	
EBID- 20190077-0- 2019/HF	City of Port St. Lucie, Procurement Management Department	Active	4/25/2019	5/31/2019		E-Bidding, Planholders, Download/Order, Details	

Enter you contact information and enter in all required fields

Note: You **MUST** put a number of the "BID AMOUNT" box. However, that number can be 0 so as to allow for a more detailed descriptions of your bid through your uploaded documents.

### **Contact Information**

*indicates r	equired fields	
Co	ompany Name *	Sample DBE Company
	Address 1 *	509 Olive Way
	Address 2	
	City *	Seattle
	State *	WA - Washington ▼
	Postal Code *	98101
	Phone *	2063739233
	Fax	2063739233
	Country *	United States of America ▼
>	Bid Amount *	0
	Alternate Bid Amount	
	Notes	

 In the agency required documents section – check the documents you intend on uploading and fulfilling. By checking these boxes this is **ONLY** an acknowledgement of how you will fulfill the requirement. You still have to upload the documents.

### **Required Documents**



The following documents are required by the agency for this project. Please select which documents you will be submitting electronically (online) and which ones you will submit directly to the agency (offline).

**Agency Required Documents** 

<u>Document</u>	None	Online/ Electronic	Offline/ Manual	<u>Not</u> submitting
-	•	✓	=#	•
Bid Reply				
Checklist		•	$\circ$	
<u>Subcontractor List</u>				
<u>Current Workload, List of Projects and Completion Dates</u>		•	0	$\circ$
Questionnaire				
Drug Free Workplace Form	•		$\bigcirc$	

Upload your response documents in an accepted file format

Make sure that you have covered and uploaded all the required documents

### **E-Bid Response Documents**

Agency Name City of Port St. Lucie, Procurement Management Department

Bid Number EBID-20190077-0-2019/HF

Bid Name Purchase Breaching "Backpack" Kits, Gas Masks and Gas Mask Cartridges for the Police Department JAG Grant

Funded

Bid Due Date 5/31/2019 3:00:00 PM Eastern time Bid Opening 14 days, 21 hours, 45 minutes, 5 seconds

No response documents uploaded

### **Agency Accepted File Formats**



Adobe Acrobat (\*.PDF)
Microsoft Excel (\*.XLS)
Microsoft Excel (\*.XLSX)
Microsoft PowerPoint (\*.PPT)
Microsoft Word (\*.DOC)
Microsoft Word (\*.DOCX)

### **Upload Electronic Documents**

\* indicates required fields

Document Title \*

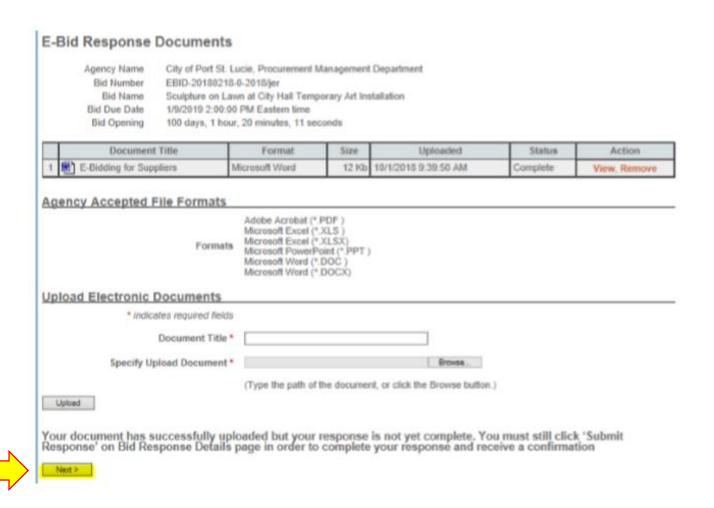
Specify Upload Document \*

Choose File No file chosen

(Type the path of the document, or click the Browse button.)

Upload

Once you decide you've uploaded all your documents that you would like to submit, make sure you click the **NEXT** button at the bottom of the screen



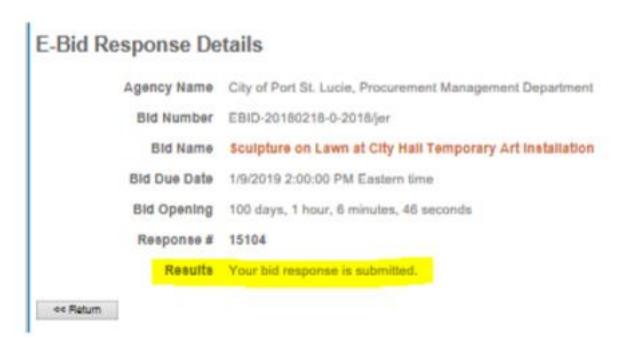
# Completing your e-bid submittal

- Please VERIFY that you have attached ALL the required documents
- Click on the Submit Response button to complete your e-bid

EDIT **Agency Required Documents** 1. Bid Reply (Electronic/Online) 2. Checklist (Electronic/Online) 🗸 3. Subcontractor List (Electronic/Online) 4. Current Workload, List of Projects and Completion Dates (Electronic/Online) 🗸 Questionnaire (Electronic/Online) 6. Drug Free Workplace Form (Electronic/Online) ✓ Current Certificate of Insurance (Electronic/Online) 8. License/Certification to do Described Work (Electronic/Online) Reference Check Form (Electronic/Online) 10. E-Bid Reply Excel Spreadsheet (Electronic/Online) 11. E-Bid Bond (Electronic/Online) 🗸 12. Vendor Code of Ethics (Electronic/Online) 13. W-9 form (Electronic/Online) 🗸 EDIT **Uploaded Documents** 1. test document upload to ensure ebidding active E-Bid Confirmation After clicking "Submit Response" the following process will begin: · We will verify that your response is complete as entered. You will see a confirmation page with your confirmation number and date/time stamp of your upload. You will receive a confirmation e-mail indicating a successful response submittal. You may track your response submission under the View Responses page. If you do not receive any of the above, please call Supplier Services at (206) 940-0305. Submit Response

## Confirmation of Response

- When you complete you will receive a confirmation
- This is a confirmation that what you uploaded will be visible to the agency when the bid closes, this is not a confirmation that all your documents were fill out or submitted correctly



## Post Submission Edits

If you feel like you missed something or need to make a change you can go back to your submittal response and edit your e-bid. By clicking on "DETAILS" then "EDIT" the section you wish

<b>Bid Identifier</b>	Agency Name	Bid Status	Broadcast	Date Due ▼	Name	Status	Actions
EBID- 20190077-0- 2019/HF	City of Port St. Lucie, Procurement Management Department	Active	4/25/2019	5/31/2019	Purchase Breaching "Backpack" Kits, Gas Masks and Gas Mask Cartridges for the Police Department JAG Grant Funded	Incomplete	Details, Bid, History

Contact Information

Company Name Sample DBE Company

Address 1 509 Olive Way

Address 2

City Seattle

State Washington

Postal Code 98101

Phone 2063739233

Fax 2063739233

Country United States of America

Bid Amount \$0.00

Alternate Bid Amount

Notes



EDIT



**Agency Required Documents** 

EDIT



### **DemandStar E-Bidding: Frequently Asked Questions**

- Do suppliers need to be registered with DemandStar to participate in e-bidding?
   Yes. But if they don't already have an account with DemandStar, they can sign up and either
  - Be a subscriber for only your agency, at no charge, and be able to download documents at no charge and then receive notifications that match their commodity codes
  - Be a "basic supplier" for free who researches on our platform and then pays \$5 to download all documents, thus becoming a plan holder
  - Be a paid subscriber for a county, state, national and receive notifications from all included agencies
- Can suppliers respond with document uploads or do they simply fill in forms?
   Yes, they may respond with document uploads that are available to you via the DemandStar platform.
- What type of E-Bidding Documents can be uploaded?

  Acceptable file formats for sending back documents that the city will accept:

### E-Bidding Documents

Document Types Bidding Documents - Exhibits

Pricing Bid Bond

File Formats Adobe Acrobat (\*.PDF)

Microsoft Excel (\*.XLS)
Microsoft Excel (\*.XLSX)
Microsoft PowerPoint (\*.PPTX)
Microsoft PowerPoint (\*.PPT)
ZIP Compressed Archive (\*.ZIP)

- Is there a maximum file size that I can upload?
   Vendors can simply upload a single file or multiple documents as long as it doesn't exceed 100 MBs (single or multiple files)
- After a bid opening, what document(s) are made public by DemandStar?
   None. Only the agency can see the vendor responses so you are the only ones who will determine what you want to download and make public.
- Who do I call if I have questions or problems with the DemandStar?
   The City strongly encourages each respondent to setup their account and to explore the eBidding module at least a couple of days before the bid due date.

If you have questions or issues creating your account, accessing the eBidding module or submitting your bid prior to the bid due date, please contact DemandStar at 866.273.1863 or by email at hello@demandstar.com.