



Issue Date: April 6, 2017

A Pre-Proposal Conference will not be held

Bid Due Date: May 4, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m. local time

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FEDERAL LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY SERVICES

RFP NO. SIDX-180004-DH

Purchasing Representative:
Diane Holder, Senior Buyer
Purchasing Division
Phone: (352) 334-5021
Fax: (352) 334-3163
Email: holderds@cityofgainesville.org

City of Gainesville
200 East University Avenue, Room 339 – Gainesville, Florida 32601

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I – REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL OVERVIEW & PROPOSAL PROCEDURES	1
A. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND	1
B. RFP TIME TABLE	1
C. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION.....	1
D. [NON] MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE	2
E. CONTACT PERSON	2
F. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/ADDENDA	3
G. LATE PROPOSALS, LATE MODIFICATIONS AND LATE WITHDRAWALS	3
H. RFP POSTPONEMENT/CANCELLATION/WAIVER OF IRREGULARITIES	3
I. COSTS INCURRED BY PROPOSERS.....	3
J. ORAL PRESENTATION	3
K. EXCEPTION TO THE RFP	3
L. TRADE SECRET AND/OR CONFIDENTIAL AND/OR PROPRIETARY INFORMATION	4
M. QUALIFICATIONS OF PROPOSERS.....	5
N. NEGOTIATIONS	5
O. RIGHTS OF APPEAL	5
P. RULES; REGULATIONS; LICENSING REQUIREMENT.....	5
Q. REVIEW OF PROPOSALS	5
R. LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION.....	5
S. LIVING WAGE	6
T. LOCAL PREFERENCE	6
U. RECORDS/AUDIT	7
V. INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED WRONGDOINGS, LITIGATION/SETTLEMENTS/FINES/PENALTIES	7
W. DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITION.....	7
X. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES.....	7
Y. DAVIS-BACON.....	7
SECTION II – SCOPE OF SERVICES	8
A. INTENT.....	8
B. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	8
SECTION III – PROPOSAL FORMAT	9
A. FORMAT AND CONTENTS OF PROPOSAL.....	9
B. QUALIFICATIONS/STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS.....	9
SECTION IV – EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES	10
A. EVALUATION CRITERIA.....	10
B. SELECTION PROCESS.....	11
SECTION V – GENERAL PROVISIONS	12
A. CONTRACT AWARD.....	12
B. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS	12
SECTION VI – TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	15
A. SCOPE.....	15
B. BACKGROUND	17
SECTION VII – PRICE PROPOSAL	18
DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE FORM	19
DEBARRED AND SUSPENDED BIDDERS:	20
BREACH OF CONTRACT	20
ARTICLE X. LOCAL PREFERENCE POLICY*	24
CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH LIVING WAGE	26
LIVING WAGE DECISION TREE	27
LIVING WAGE COMPLIANCE	28
PROPOSAL RESPONSE FORM – SIGNATURE PAGE	29
PURCHASING DIVISION SURVEY	31

**CITY OF GAINESVILLE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR
FEDERAL LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY SERVICES**

SECTION I – REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL OVERVIEW & PROPOSAL PROCEDURES

RFP#:SIDX-180004-DH

**May 4, 2017
(Due Date)**

A. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The City of Gainesville (hereafter "City") is requesting proposals from lobbying firms to provide professional legislative consulting and lobbying services to the City of Gainesville, including General Government and Gainesville Regional Utilities, for the period beginning October 1, 2017 and ending one (1) year thereafter with three (3) additional optional one (1) year renewals. This includes but is not limited to scheduled, extended, and special Federal legislative sessions and anytime throughout the year deemed necessary by the city.

B. RFP TIME TABLE

The anticipated schedule for the RFP and contract approval is as follows:

RFP available for distribution	April 5, 2017
Pre-Proposal Conference	NA
Deadline for receipt of questions	April 27, 2017
Deadline for receipt of proposals	May 4, 2017 (3:00 p.m. local time)
Evaluation/Selection process	Week of May 15, 2017
Oral presentations, if conducted	Week of June 5, 2017
Projected award date	July 6, 2017
Projected contract start date	October 1, 2017

C. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

One original and four copies (a total of five) of the complete proposal must be received by May 4, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. local time at which time all proposals will be publicly opened. In addition, proposer should provide one (1) electronic copy of their proposal in PDF format on a CD or USB flash drive. Electronic document should not be password protected, encrypted, etc.

The original, all copies, and the separate sealed price envelope, if required, must be submitted in a sealed envelope or container stating on the outside the proposer's name, address, telephone number, RFP title, number and due date and delivered to:

City of Gainesville
General Government Purchasing
200 East University Avenue, Room 339
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Hand-carried and express mail proposals may be delivered to the above address **ONLY** between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., local time, Monday through Thursday, excluding holidays observed by the City.

Proposers are responsible for informing any commercial delivery service, if used, of all delivery requirements and for ensuring that the required address information appears on the outer wrapper or envelope used by such service.

Any proposal received after 3:00 p.m. (local time), May 4, 2017 will not be considered and will be returned unopened.

Both the Technical Proposal and the Price Proposal, if required to be submitted in a separate envelope, must be signed by an officer of the company who is legally authorized to enter into a contractual relationship in the name of the proposer, and proposer(s) must affix their company's corporate seal to both Proposals. In the absence of a corporate seal, the Proposals must be notarized by a Notary Public.

The submittal of a proposal by a proposer will be considered by the City as constituting an offer by the Proposer to perform the required services at the stated fees.

D. PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

A pre-proposal will not be held.

E. CONTACT PERSON

The contact person for this RFP is Diane Holder at (352) 334-5021 or email address holders@cityofgainesville.org in Purchasing. Explanation(s) desired by proposer(s) regarding the meaning or interpretation of this RFP must be requested from the contact person, in writing, as is further described below.

To ensure fair consideration and consistent and accurate dissemination of information for all proposers, the City prohibits communication to or with any department, employee, or agent evaluating or considering the proposals during the submission process, except as authorized by the contact person.

During the blackout period as defined herein, except as pursuant to an authorized appeal, no person may lobby, as defined herein, on behalf of a competing party in a particular procurement process, City officials or employees except the purchasing designated staff contact in the purchasing division. Violation of this provision shall result in disqualification of the party on whose behalf the lobbying occurred.

The blackout period means the period between the issue date which allows for immediate submittals to the City of Gainesville Purchasing Department for an invitation for bid or the request for proposal, or qualifications, or information, or the invitation to negotiate, as applicable, and the time the City Officials and Employee awards the contract. Lobbying means when any natural person, for compensation, seeks to influence the governmental decision-making, to encourage the passage, defeat or modification of any proposal, recommendation or decision by City officials and employees, except as authorized by procurement documents.

F. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/ADDENDA

Requests for additional information or clarifications must be made in writing no later than the date specified in the RFP Timetable. The request must contain the proposer's name, address, phone number, and facsimile number. Electronic facsimile will be accepted at (352) 334-3163.

Facsimiles must have a cover sheet which includes, at a minimum, the proposer's name, address, number of pages transmitted, phone number, and facsimile number.

The City will issue responses to inquiries and any other corrections or amendments it deems necessary in written addenda issued prior to the Proposal Due Date. Proposers should not rely on any representations, statements or explanations other than those made in this RFP or in any addendum to this RFP. Where there appears to be a conflict between the RFP and any addenda issued, the last addendum issued will prevail.

It is the proposer's responsibility to be sure all addenda were received. The proposer should verify with the designated contact persons prior to submitting a proposal that all addenda have been received. Proposers are required to acknowledge the number of addenda received as part of their proposals.

G. LATE PROPOSALS, LATE MODIFICATIONS AND LATE WITHDRAWALS

Proposals received after the Proposal Due Date and time are late and will not be considered. Modifications received after the Proposal Due Date are also late and will not be considered. Letters of withdrawal received after the Proposal Due Date or after contract award, whichever is applicable, are late and will not be considered.

H. RFP POSTPONEMENT/CANCELLATION/WAIVER OF IRREGULARITIES

The City may, at its sole and absolute discretion, reject any and all, or parts of any and all, proposals; re-advertise this RFP; postpone or cancel, at any time, this RFP process; or waive any irregularities in this RFP or in the proposals received as a result of this RFP.

I. COSTS INCURRED BY PROPOSERS

All expenses involved with the preparation and submission of proposals to the City, or any work performed in connection therewith shall be borne by the proposer(s). No payment will be made for any responses received, nor for any other effort required of or made by the proposer(s) prior to commencement of work as defined by a contract approved by the City Commission.

J. ORAL PRESENTATION

The City may require proposers to give oral presentations in support of their proposals or to exhibit or otherwise demonstrate the information contained therein.

K. EXCEPTION TO THE RFP

Proposers may take exceptions to any of the terms of this RFP unless the RFP specifically states where exceptions may not be taken. Should a proposer take exception where none is permitted, the proposal will be rejected as non-responsive. All exceptions taken must be specific, and the Proposer must indicate clearly what alternative is being offered to allow the City a meaningful opportunity to evaluate and rank proposals.

Where exceptions are permitted, the City shall determine the acceptability of the proposed exceptions and the proposals will be evaluated based on the proposals as submitted. The City, after completing evaluations, may accept

or reject the exceptions. Where exceptions are rejected, the City may request that the Proposer furnish the services or goods described herein, or negotiate an acceptable alternative.

L. TRADE SECRET AND/OR CONFIDENTIAL AND/OR PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

All proposals (including all documentation and materials attached to proposals or provided in connection with this RFP) submitted to the City are subject to Florida's public records laws (i.e., Chapter 119, Florida Statutes), which requires disclosure of public records, unless exempt, if a public records request is made. Proposals (including all documentation and materials attached to proposals or provided in connection with this RFP (even if in a separate envelope)) submitted to the City cannot be returned. The City will not consider proposals if the entire proposal is labeled a Trade Secret and/or Confidential and/or Proprietary.

If proposer believes that its proposal contains information that is a trade secret (as defined by Florida law) and/or information that is confidential and/or proprietary and therefore exempt from disclosure then such information must be submitted in a separate envelope and comply with the following requirements. In addition to submitting the information in a separate envelope, proposer must include a general description of the information designated as a trade secret and/or confidential and/or proprietary and provide reference to the Florida statute or other law which exempts such designated information from disclosure in the event a public records request.

The City does not warrant or guarantee that information designated by proposer as a trade secret and/or confidential and/or proprietary is a trade secret and/or confidential and/or proprietary and exempt from disclosure. The City offers no opinion as to whether the reference to the Florida statute or other law by proposer is/are correct and/or accurate. The City will notify proposer if a public records request is received and proposer, at its own expense, will have forty-eight (48) hours after receipt of such notice (email notice is acceptable notice) to file the necessary court documents to obtain a protective order.

Please be aware that the designation of information as a trade secret and/or confidential and/or proprietary may be challenged in court by any person or entity. By designation of information as a trade secret and/or confidential and/or proprietary proposer agrees to defend the City, its employees, agents and elected and appointed officials ("Indemnified Parties") against all claims and actions (whether or not a lawsuit is commenced) related to its designation of information as a trade secret and/or confidential and/or proprietary and to hold harmless the Indemnified Parties for any award to a plaintiff for damages, costs and attorneys' fees, and for costs and attorneys' fees (including those of the City Attorney's office) incurred by the City by reason of any claim or action arising out of or related to proposer's designation of information as a trade secret and/or confidential and/or proprietary.

Failure to comply with the requirements above shall be deemed as a waiver by proposer to claim that all additional information in its proposal is a trade secret and/or confidential and/or proprietary regardless if such information is labeled trade secret and/or confidential and/or proprietary. Proposer acknowledges and agrees that all information in proposer's proposal (not including information in section L) will be disclosed, without any notice to proposer, if a public records request is made for such information.

Please be advised that proposer's proposal, including the information submitted in a separate envelope in accordance with the requirements set forth in this Section L, will be distributed to the Evaluation Committee members, City staff and City Consultants to allow proposer's entire proposal, including the information submitted in a separate envelope, to be evaluated and considered for award of this Contract. The entire contents of Proposer's proposal, including the information submitted in a separate envelope, may be discussed at meetings that are open to the public, subject to the requirements set forth in Chapter 286, Florida Statutes. In the event a public records request is received the City will notify Proposer and Proposer, at its own expense, will have forty-eight (48) hours after receipt of such notice (e-mail notice is acceptable notice) to file the necessary court documents to obtain a protective order.

M. QUALIFICATIONS OF PROPOSERS

As a part of the Proposal evaluation process, City may conduct a background investigation of proposer, including a record check by the Gainesville Police Department. Proposer's submission of a Proposal constitutes acknowledgment of the process and consent to such investigation.

No proposal shall be accepted from, nor will any contract be awarded to, any proposer who is in arrears to City upon any debt, fee, tax or contract, or who is a defaulter, as surety or otherwise, upon any obligation to City, or who is otherwise determined to be irresponsible or unreliable by City.

If Proposer is determined to be irresponsible or unreliable, City will notify Proposer of its finding, including evidence used, and allow proposer an informal hearing and the opportunity to come into compliance within three business days of notification.

N. NEGOTIATIONS

The City may award a contract on the basis of initial offers received, without discussions. Therefore, each initial offer should contain the proposer's best terms from a cost or price and technical standpoint.

The City reserves the right to enter into contract negotiations with the selected proposer. If the City and the selected proposer cannot negotiate a successful contract, the City may terminate said negotiations and begin negotiations with the next selected proposer. This process will continue until a contract has been executed or all proposers have been rejected. No proposer shall have any rights against the City arising from such negotiations.

O. RIGHTS OF APPEAL

Participants in this RFP solicitation may protest RFP specifications or award in accordance with Section 41-580 of the City of Gainesville's Financial Services Procedures Manual.

P. RULES; REGULATIONS; LICENSING REQUIREMENT

The proposer shall comply with all laws, ordinances and regulations applicable to the services contemplated herein, including those applicable to conflict of interest and collusion. Proposers are presumed to be familiar with all Federal, State and local laws, ordinances, codes and regulations that may in any way affect the services offered.

Q. REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

Each proposal will be reviewed to determine if the proposal is responsive to the submission requirements outlined in the RFP. A responsive proposal is one which follows the requirements of the RFP, includes all required documentation, is submitted in the format outlined in the RFP, is of timely submission, and has the appropriate signatures as required on each document. Failure to comply with these requirements may deem your proposal non-responsive.

R. LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

It is the policy of the City of Gainesville that qualified local small business (SBEs) as defined in the City of Gainesville's Local Small Business Procurement Program (the "Program") shall have the maximum practical opportunity to participate in the competitive process of supplying commodities and services to the City. Notification is hereby given that local small businesses are strongly encouraged to submit a bid in response to any procurement opportunity let by the City of Gainesville. Prime contractors are strongly encouraged to utilize qualified local small business subcontractors and material suppliers. A listing of qualified businesses is located on the City's website at: [http://www.cityofgainesville.org/Portals/0/eo/Small_SDV%20Business%20Listing%20\(1.28.16\).pdf](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/Portals/0/eo/Small_SDV%20Business%20Listing%20(1.28.16).pdf)

Any individual or entity that engages in fraud, misrepresentation, or other wrongful conduct, whether by act or omission, related to its participation in or eligibility to participate in the Program or in the performance of its SBE obligations under a City contract, shall be in violation of the Program. This determination shall be solely at the discretion of the City. Violators of the Program may be subject to, on an individual and/or entity basis, the debarment or suspension from participating in the City's contracts in accordance with the City of Gainesville's Debarment and Suspension Policy.

S. LIVING WAGE

- This contract is a covered service. (See Living Wage Decision Tree - Exhibit C attached hereto)
 This contract is **not** a covered service.

The Living Wage ordinance, Ordinance 020663, as amended at Ordinance 030168, and as shown on the City's web page, applies to certain contracts for specific "Covered Services," which the City has determined may include services purchased under this Contract, depending upon the cost/price of the contract awarded. A copy of the ordinance, as amended, will be attached to and made a part of the executed contract. Bidders/Proposers should consider the effect/cost of compliance, if any, with the requirements of the Living Wage Ordinance if the services purchased are "Covered Services", the prime contract amount exceeds the threshold amount, the bidder/proposer meets the definition of Service Contractor/Subcontractor (and is not otherwise excluded from the application of the ordinance) and the ordinance provisions, which are incorporated herein, apply to any Covered Employees.

If applicable, the adjusted Living Wage for this contract will be 11.8269 per hour (Living Wage with Health Benefits) or 13.08 per hour if Health Benefits are not offered.

If applicable, a successful Service Contractor/Subcontractor shall be required to execute the certification, attached as Exhibit B hereto, prior to the City executing the contract. Once executed, such certification will become part of the contract; however, failure to sign such certification will prevent execution of the contract, may result in forfeiture of any applicable bid or proposal bond, and could result in other adverse action.

During the performance of this contract, the Contractor agrees as follows:

- (1) The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of the City of Gainesville's living wage requirements, as applicable. Failure to do so shall be deemed a breach of contract and shall authorize the City to withhold payment of funds until the living wage requirements have been met.
- (2) The Contractor will include the provision of (1) above in each subcontract for Covered Services with a Service Contractor/Subcontractor, as defined herein, so that the provisions of (1) above will be binding upon each such Service Contractor/Subcontractor. The Contractor will take such action with respect to any such subcontract as may be directed by the contract administrator as a means of enforcing such provisions; provided, however, the City shall not be deemed a necessary or indispensable party in any litigation between the contractor and a subcontractor concerning compliance with living wage requirements.

T. LOCAL PREFERENCE

In bidding of, or letting contracts for procurement of, supplies, materials, equipment and services, as described in the purchasing policies, the city commission, or other purchasing authority, may give a preference to local businesses in making such purchase or awarding such contract in an amount not to exceed five percent of the local business' total bid price, and in any event the cost differential should not exceed \$25,000.00. Total bid price shall include not only the base bid price but also all alterations to that base bid price resulting from alternates which were both part of the bid and actually purchased and awarded by the City Commission or other authority. In the case of requests for proposals, letter of interest, best evaluated bids, qualifications or other solicitations and competitive negotiation and selection in which objective factors are used to evaluate the responses. Local Businesses are assigned five (5) percent of the total points of the total evaluation points. If Local Preference is requested by the proposer, the attached Exhibit A must be submitted with the proposal.

Local business means the vendor has a valid business tax receipt, issued by the City of Gainesville at least six months prior to bid or proposal opening date, to do business in said locality that authorizes the business to provide the goods, services, or construction to be purchased, and a physical business address located within the limits of said locality, in an area zoned for the conduct of such business, from which the vendor operates or performs business on a day-to-day basis. Post office boxes are not verifiable and shall not be used for the purpose of establishing said physical address. In order to be eligible for local preference, in the Bid or RFP evaluation, the vendor must provide a copy of the business tax receipt and Zoning Compliance Permit. Exhibit -A-(Attach Codified document)

U. RECORDS/AUDIT

Contractor shall maintain records sufficient to document their completion of the scope of services established by this Contract. These records shall be subject at all reasonable time to review, inspect, copy and audit by persons duly authorized by the City. These records shall be kept for a minimum of three (3) years after completion of the Contract. Records which relate to any litigation, appeals or settlements of claims arising from performance under this Order shall be made available until a final disposition has been made of such litigation, appeals, or claims.

V. INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED WRONGDOINGS, LITIGATION/SETTLEMENTS/FINES/PENALTIES

The City Commission specifically requests that responders to this document indicate in writing any investigations of wrongdoings, litigation and/or settlements, and fines or penalties (anywhere in the U.S) involving the Contractor and specific Contractors listed as projected to provide services to the City. You may be required to respond to questions on this subject matter.

W. DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITION

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, age, disability, and gender identity, be refused the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to, discrimination under any activities resulting from this RFQ.

X. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

In 1989, the City of Gainesville adopted an ordinance (Art in Public Places) requiring that, “each appropriation for the original construction or major renovation of a local government building which provides public access shall include an amount of at least one (1) percent of the total appropriation for the construction or major renovation of the building to be used for the acquisition of art”. Compliance with the Art in Public Places ordinance is required for this project and will require coordination between the Contractor, architect and an artist. A copy of the ordinance is available upon request.

Y. DAVIS-BACON

It will be the responsibility of the contractor to check with the department project manager to determine if compliance with the Davis Bacon Act and the DOL regulations are required.

SECTION II – SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. INTENT

It is the intent of the City of Gainesville to obtain proposals from lobbying firms to provide professional legislative consulting and lobbying services to the City of Gainesville, including General Government and Gainesville Regional Utilities, for the period beginning October 1, 2017 and ending one (1) year thereafter with three (3) additional optional one (1) year renewals. This includes but is not limited to scheduled, extended, and special Federal legislative sessions and anytime throughout the year deemed necessary by the city.

B. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of ten (10) years providing professional legislative consulting and lobbying services including five (5) years providing such services to local government(s) and five (5) years experience lobbying on behalf of a publicly owned utility. Each person engaged in lobbying services on behalf of the City of Gainesville must be registered as a legislative and executive lobbyist in the State of Florida.

SECTION III – PROPOSAL FORMAT

Instructions to proposers: Proposals must contain each of the below enumerated documents, each fully completed, signed, and notarized as required. Proposals submitted which do not include the following items may be deemed non-responsive and may not be considered for contract award.

A. FORMAT AND CONTENTS OF PROPOSAL

1. Table of Contents

The table of contents should outline in sequential order the major areas of the proposal, and all pages of the proposal, including the enclosures, must be clearly and consecutively numbered and correspond to the table of contents.

2. Technical Proposals

The technical proposal is a narrative which addresses the scope of work, the proposed approach to the work, the schedule of the work, and any other information called for by the RFP which the proposer deems relevant.

3. Price Proposal

The price proposal is a presentation of the proposer's total offering price including the estimated cost for providing each component of the required goods or services.

Proposers should indicate the dollar amount which will be attributed to each sub-contractor, if any.

If a prescribed format for the price proposal is appended, proposers must use it; otherwise, proposers may use formats of their choice.

4. Qualifications

The response to the minimum qualification requirements contained below is a list of the minimum qualification requirements prescribed for the RFP. Proposers must provide documentation which demonstrates their ability to satisfy all of the minimum qualification requirements. Proposers who do not meet the minimum qualification requirements or who fail to provide supporting documentation will not be considered for award. If a prescribed format, or required documentation for the response to minimum qualification requirements is stated below, proposers must use said format and supply said documentation.

A copy of your Business tax receipt and Zoning Compliance Permit should be submitted with the proposal if a local preference is requested.

B. QUALIFICATIONS/STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

As a part of the Proposal evaluation process, City may conduct a background investigation of proposer, including a record check by the Gainesville Police Department. Proposer's submission of a Proposal constitutes acknowledgment of the process and consent to such investigation.

No proposal shall be accepted from, nor will any contract be awarded to, any proposer who is in arrears to City upon any debt, fee, tax or contract, or who is a defaulter, as surety or otherwise, upon any obligation to City, or who is otherwise determined to be irresponsible or unreliable by City.

If Proposer is determined to be irresponsible or unreliable, City will notify Proposer of its finding, including evidence used, and allow proposer an informal hearing and the opportunity to come into compliance within three business days of notification.

SECTION IV – EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

A. EVALUATION CRITERIA

1.0 SELECTION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the procedures described in the City's Professional Services Evaluation Handbook. The proposals will be evaluated in four stages: Technical Qualifications Evaluation, Written Proposal Evaluation and/or Presentation/Interview Evaluation, and Other Factors as deemed appropriate. The City shall consider the ability of the firm's professional personnel, willingness to meet time and budget requirements, workload, location, past performance, volume of previous work with the City, and location. The Evaluation process provides a structured means for consideration of all these areas.

1.1 Technical Qualifications Evaluation

The Technical Qualifications Evaluation will assess each responding firm's ability based on experience and qualifications of key team members, the firm's capability of meeting time and budget requirements, and the firm's record with regard to this type of work, particularly in the City of Gainesville or in the State of Florida. This stage does not involve review and evaluation of a proposal addressing the project scope of work. Consideration will be given to the firm's current workload, financial stability, and the location where the majority of the technical work will be produced. The City will not be impressed with excessive amounts of boilerplate, excessive numbers of resumes, excessive length of resumes, excessive numbers of photographs, work that distant offices have performed, or work not involving personnel to be assigned to the proposed project.

1.2 Written Proposal Evaluation

The Written Proposal Evaluation will assess the firm's understanding of the project and the proposed approach to be undertaken as addressed in a written proposal. The evaluation process will assess how effectively the requirements of the scope of services have been addressed. The written proposal should identify a project manager and other key members of the project/service team. It should relate the capabilities of the project/service team to the requirements of the scope of services.

1.3 Presentation/Interview Evaluation

The Proposal Presentation/Interview Evaluation is based on an oral presentation that addresses both the technical qualifications of the firm and the approach to the project. Importance is given to the firm's understanding of the project scope of work, the placement of emphasis on various work tasks, and the response to questions. The evaluation process will assess the project manager's capability and understanding of the project and his/her ability to communicate ideas. The role of key members of the project/service team should be established based on the scope of services and the firm's approach to the project/service. The role of any subcontracted firm in the proposal should be clearly identified. Unique experience and exceptional qualifications may be considered with emphasis on understanding of the project/service, particularly "why it is to be done" as well as "what is to be done." The City of Gainesville will not be impressed with excessive boilerplate, excessive participation by "business development" personnel, and the use of "professional" presenters who will not be involved in the project or future presentations.

1.4 Other factors

The Other Factors to be considered, based upon the specific project (but not limited to), are those items, such as SBPP and/ or Local Preference. Fee proposals, when requested and deemed appropriate, are also to be considered in the evaluation process, where the request for such fees is in accordance with the City's Purchasing Policies and Procedures.

B. SELECTION PROCESS

The contractor(s) will be selected from the qualified vendors submitting responses to this Request for Proposals. The selection process will be as follows:

1. Evaluators consisting of staff will review the written proposals. The evaluation process provides a structured means for consideration of all proposals.
2. Upon review and evaluation, the City may request oral presentations from the top ranked vendors. During the oral presentations, the vendors shall further detail their qualifications, approach to the project and ability to furnish the required services. These presentations shall be made at no cost to the City. Firms selected for further presentations should provide one (1) electronic copy of materials presented in PDF format on a CD.
3. Prior to final ranking of firms, the apparent top ranked vendor will be required to furnish proof to the City that it complies with the specifications.
4. The final ranking of firms will be in accordance with the procedures described in the City's Professional Services Evaluation Handbook. If required, the final ranking of firms will be presented to the City Commission. The City Commission will be requested to approve the recommended ranking and authorize negotiation and execution of the contract beginning with the top ranked vendor.
5. Provided that the City Commission approves the ranking and an award, the City will negotiate a contract with the top ranked proposer for the provision of Federal Lobbying and Advocacy services. Should the City be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the top ranked vendor, negotiations will be terminated with that proposer and negotiations will be initiated with the second most qualified proposer, and so on until a satisfactory contract is negotiated.

SECTION V – GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. CONTRACT AWARD

The award(s), if any, shall be made to the proposer(s) whose proposal(s) shall be deemed by the City to be in the best interest of the City. The decision of the City of whether to make the award(s) and which proposal is in the best interest of the City shall be final.

The Contract to be entered into with the successful proposer will designate the successful proposer as the City's Contractor and will include, but not be limited to, the following terms and conditions.

B. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Following are the General Terms and Conditions, supplemental to those stated elsewhere in the Request for Proposals, to which the Vendor must comply to be consistent with the requirements for this Request for Proposals. Any deviation from these or any other stated requirements should be listed as exceptions in a separate appendix of the proposal.

1. Public Entity Crimes. Section 287.133 (2)(a), Florida Statutes, contains the following provisions: "A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity, in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, for CATEGORY TWO for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list."
2. Tie Bids. Whenever two or more bids which are equal with respect to price, quality and service are received, preference shall be given in the following order: (1) Bidders submitting the attached Drug-Free Workplace form with their bid/proposal certifying they have a drug free workplace in accordance with Section 287.087, Florida Statutes; (2) Bidders located within the City of Gainesville, if not subject to the Local Preference Ordinance; (3) Bidders located within Alachua County; and (4) Bidders located within the State of Florida. In the case where Federal funds are being utilized, articles 2,3 and 4 will not apply.
3. Drugfree Workplace. Preference shall be given to submitters providing a certification with their qualifications certifying they have a drug-free workplace whenever two or more bids which are equal with respect to price, quality, and service are received in accordance with Section 287.087, Florida Statutes. The attached form should be filled out and returned with the qualifications in order to qualify for this preference.
4. Indemnification. The Contractor shall agree to indemnify and save harmless the City, its officers, agents, and employees, from and against any and all liability, claims, demands, fines, fees, expenses, penalties, suits, proceedings, actions and costs of action, including attorney's fees for trial and on appeal, of any kind and nature arising or growing out of or in any way connected with the performance of the contract whether by act or omission or negligence of the Contractor, its agents, servants, employees or others, or because of or due to the mere existence of the Contract between the parties.
5. Insurance. Contractor shall provide proof of insurance in an amount as noted below:

Worker's Compensation Insurance providing coverage in compliance with Chapter 440, Florida Statutes.

Public Liability Insurance (other than automobile) consisting of broad form comprehensive general liability insurance including contractual coverage \$1,000,000 per occurrence (combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage).

The City shall be an additional insured on such Public Liability Insurance and the Contractor shall provide copies of endorsements naming the City as additional insured.

Automobile Liability Insurance

Property Damage \$500,000 per occurrence (combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage).

The Contractor shall furnish the City a certificate of insurance in a form acceptable to the City for the insurance required. Such certificate or an endorsement provided by the Contractor must state that the City will be given thirty (30) days' written notice (except the City will accept ten (10) days written notice for non-payment) prior to cancellation or material change in coverage.

6. Sovereign Immunity. Nothing in the executed contract shall be interpreted that the City waives its sovereign immunity granted under Section 768.28, Florida Statutes.
7. Term. The term of the contract will commence upon final execution and will continue for one (1) year, subject to funding in subsequent fiscal years. At the end of the contract period, upon satisfactory performance, the City, may at its option, negotiate and extend the contract for three (3) additional one (1) year periods.
8. Termination. The contract will provide termination by either party without cause upon 30 days prior written notice to the other party. In the event of termination, the Contractor will be compensated for services rendered up to and including the day of termination.
9. Applicable Law. The contract and the legal relations between the parties hereto shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. Venue in the courts of Alachua County, Florida.
10. Joint Bidding/Cooperative Purchasing Agreement: All bidders submitting a response to this invitation to bid agree that such response also constitutes a bid to all State Agencies and Political Subdivisions of the State of Florida under the same terms and conditions, for the same prices and the same effective period as this bid, should the bidder deem it in the best interest of its business to do so. This agreement in no way restricts or interferes with any State Agency or Political Subdivision of the State of Florida to rebid any or all items.
11. Subcontractors. All successful contractors specific to construction in the amount of \$300 thousand or more to include material suppliers shall be required to provide information of subcontractors in addition to sub and sub subcontractors prior to final payment under the contract.
12. Florida Public Records Act
Florida has a very broad public records law and certain records of a contractor may be considered public records. Accordingly, by entering into an agreement with the City, contractor must:
 1. Keep and maintain public records required by the public agency to perform the service.
 2. Upon request from the public agency's custodian of public records, provide the public agency with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in this chapter or as otherwise provided by law.
 3. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the contract term and following completion of the contract if the contractor does not transfer the records to the public agency.
 4. Upon completion of the contract, transfer, at no cost, to the public agency all public records in possession of the contractor or keep and maintain public records required by the public agency to perform the service. If the contractor transfers all public records to the public agency upon completion of the contract, the contractor shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the contractor keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the contract, the contractor shall meet all applicable requirements for

retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the public agency, upon request from the public agency's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the public agency.

IF THE CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS KELLY FERREL, 352-339-6919, ferrelkl@cityofgainesville.org, P.O. Box 490 Mail Station 6, Gainesville, FL 32627.

SECTION VI – TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

A. SCOPE

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Develop a Federal Legislative program for the City of Gainesville to include consultation, advocacy, communications and logistical services.

CONSULTATION

1. Identify federal grant opportunities on an ongoing basis and provide designated City staff with agency meetings, letters of support or other recommendations to enhance their efforts in the competitive proposal process.
2. Review on a continuing basis all existing and proposed federal policies, programs and legislation, identifying those issues that may affect the City or its citizens and regularly informing the City as to the above.
3. Review the legislative and federal agency policy statements adopted by the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and other local government lobbying groups for the purpose of identifying issues which may either positively or negatively affect the City.
4. Monitor and track City issues of interest Litigation, administrative hearings and proceedings, rule challenges, and representation of the City specifically in a regulatory context.
5. Assist the Mayor, City Commissioners and City staff in the coordination and development of the City's federal legislative, agency, and executive branch programs.
6. Coordinate with designated City staff to develop the City's federal legislative program.
7. Upon request, coordinate, and attend, appointments and meetings between the Mayor, designated representatives of the City, or other City staff and appropriate federal officials and/or members of Congress.

ADVOCACY

1. Attend Congressional sessions, committee hearings and meetings; attending agency hearings and meetings; providing high-level consultation for and assisting with the identification of federal grant opportunities; and providing appropriate status reports on all issues activities.
2. Participate in national organization lobbying efforts and campaigns when priority concerns of Gainesville are at stake.
3. Maximize relationships with the Florida Congressional Delegation, federal agency departments, other key members of Congress, Committee Chairs and professional Committee staff.
4. Facilitate briefings and lobbying/advocacy strategies for the City's concerns with the Florida Congressional Delegation (vote counts, delegation letters in support of the City's grants and projects, and orchestrated congressional calls to executive agencies in support of grants).
5. Maximize the City's membership in Washington-based interest groups and associations, such as the National League of Cities, so the City priorities and positions are clearly understood, reinforced, and advanced within national organization agendas.
6. Develop and evaluate strategy for the support, defeat, or amendment of pending federal legislation or agency policy initiatives.

7. Appear and testify before legislative committees and federal agencies, as required, in order to promote and seek passage of legislation or agency policies affecting in accordance with the City's federal program(s).

COMMUNICATIONS

Congress is in Session:

1. Maintain regular weekly contact with the City's general government Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator, the City's utilities Government Relations Liaison or other designated City staff via email, conference calls or video conference on day-to-day activity.
2. Directly notify the Mayor, City Manager, and other City staff as directed on information that may be impose critical deadlines and impact the City.
3. Request from the City and Consultant will be met in a reasonable amount of time to meet critical deadlines.
4. Provide conference calls, with the Mayor, elected officials, City Manager, General Manger, department directors or other designated City employee, as scheduled.
5. Provide weekly written reports on the status of legislation and federal agency policy issues of concern to designated City staff. Such reports shall be in memo format and include personal briefings and information bulletins pertinent to any legislation, rules, regulations, and federal policies or programs that affect the City and its citizens, either directly or indirectly.
6. Provide a monthly memo style written report detailing action taken during the month, status of issues, and anticipated action during the upcoming month.
7. Provide a detailed final report on specific legislation or policies affecting the City. The report shall be provided within a reasonable time period, not to exceed 30 days, after the close of each Congressional session.

Congress is out of Session:

1. Provide bi-weekly oral and monthly memo-style written briefings on a schedule determined in consultation with City officials.
2. Provide with a minimum of four comprehensive briefing sessions annually. More frequent reports will be provided on demand, when necessary; and interim written reports providing an overview on congressional and federal actions taken and a decision memorandum on those issues requiring immediate action.
3. Provide regular legislative reports on all federal programs and legislation of most concern to Gainesville, including specific impact analysis. These reports are intended especially to provide Gainesville-specific information, well beyond that available to the City through general or national newsletter. These reports are intended to provide information the City can utilize for more rational short-term grant and program planning and development purposes.
4. Provide targeted information on federal policy and regulatory actions of the federal government, which may directly affect Gainesville, including potential plans on the Administration and executive agencies for new grant competitions or programs.
5. Inform the relevant City staff, in a timely manner, of potential conflicts that arise between your representation of the City of Gainesville and any other individual or organization centered around an item on the City of Gainesville's legislative priorities.

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

1. Provide the City, the Mayor, City Manager, General Manager elected officials and designated staff with logistical support in Washington, D.C. or at national organization sessions involving critical federal-local issues. Such support will include: 1) coordinating and scheduling strategic appointments or negotiation sessions; and 2) providing in-town transportation to and from sessions, agency, legislative and lobbying meetings.
2. Provide the City with a consultant from both congressional and executive agency experience and backgrounds involving both political parties to represent and advance the City's objectives.

B. BACKGROUND

The City of Gainesville has a Council/Manager form of government. This means that the Mayor and City Commission make policy decisions which are implemented by the City Manager for General Government and the General Manager for GRU.

The Commission appoints a City Manager which is the administrative head of the City of Gainesville general government, responsible for the administration of all departments except for those under the direction of the other charter officers. The City Manager's Office oversees all general government programs and services; is responsible for enforcing all city laws, ordinances and policies.

The Commission appoints a General Manager for Gainesville Regional Utilities as the administrative head for all operations of the utility and its five services: Electric, Water, Wastewater, Gas, and Telecommunications. GRU's mission is to provide safe, reliable, competitively priced utility services in an environmentally responsible manner to enhance the quality of life in our community.

SECTION VII – PRICE PROPOSAL

Price format shall include a lump sum annual rate for the services described in the RFP.

The City agrees to compensate the Consultant on a monthly basis. Payment is due the first day of each month during the term of the Agreement. The determined amount(s) shall be billed as follows: to the City Manager and to the General Manager of Utilities.. The foregoing rate includes all expenses of the Consultant. Reimbursement for in-town (D.C.) transportation for legislative and lobbying meetings for the Mayor or designee shall be at a rate not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per day for a total of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) for the contract period. An original invoice plus one copy are due within fifteen (15) days of the end of the month, except the final invoice.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE FORM

The undersigned vendor in accordance with Florida Statute 287.087 hereby certifies that

_____ does:

(Name of Business)

1. Publish a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition.
2. Inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the business's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for the drug abuse violations.
3. Give each employee engaged in providing the commodities or contractual services that are under bid a copy of the statement specified in subsection (1).
4. In the statement specified in subsection (1), notify the employees that, as a condition of working on the commodities or contractual services that are under bid, the employee will abide by the terms of the statement and will notify the employer of any conviction of, or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, any violation of Chapter 893 or of any controlled substance law of the United States or any state, for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five (5) days after such conviction.
5. Impose a sanction on, or require the satisfactory participation in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program if such is available in the employee's community, by any employee who is so convicted.
6. Make a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of this section.

As the person authorized to sign the statement, I certify that this firm complies fully with the above requirements.

Bidder's Signature

Date

DEBARRED AND SUSPENDED BIDDERS:

Breach of Contract

1. **Scope.**
This policy prescribes policies and procedures relating to:
 - (a) the debarment of bidders for cause;
 - (b) the suspension of bidders for cause under prescribed conditions;
and,
 - (c) the rejection of bids, revocation of acceptance and termination of contracts for cause.
 It is directly applicable to the advertised and negotiated purchases and contracts, for equipment and services of the City.
2. **General.**
Debarment and suspension are measures which may be invoked by the City either to exclude or to disqualify bidders and contractors from participation in City contracting or subcontracting. These measure should be used for the purpose of protecting the interests of the City and not for punishment. To assure the City the benefits to be derived from the full and free competition of interested bidders, these measures should not be instituted for any time longer than deemed necessary to protect the interests of the City, and should preclude awards only for the probably duration of the period of non-responsibility.
 - 2.1 **Definitions.**
 - (a) "Debarment" means, in general, an exclusion from City contracting and subcontracting for a reasonable, specified period of time commensurate with the seriousness of the offense, improper conduct or the inadequacy of performance.
 - (b) "Suspension" means a disqualification from City contracting and subcontracting for a temporary period of time because a concern or individual is suspected upon adequate evidence (See Section 6) of engaging in criminal, fraudulent, improper conduct or inadequate performance.
 - (c) A "debarment list" or "debarred bidders list" means a list of names of concerns or individuals against whom any or all of the measures referred to in this policy have been invoked.
 - (d) "Bidders" means, wherever the term is used in this policy, an offerors bidding pursuant to an invitation for bids or a request for proposals.
 - (e) "Affiliates" means business concerns which are affiliates of each other when either directly or indirectly one concern or individual controls or has the power to control another, or when a third party controls or has the power to control both.
 - (f) "Business operations" means commercial or industrial activity engaged in regularly and continuously over a period of time for the purpose of receiving pecuniary benefit or otherwise accomplishing an objective. "Business operations" constitute and are equivalent to "carrying on business", "engaged in business", "doing business".
3. **Establishment and Maintenance of a List of Concerns or Individuals Debarred or Suspended.**
 - (a) The Purchasing Department shall establish and maintain on the basis contained in Sections 6 and 6.1, a consolidated list of concerns and individuals to whom contracts will not be awarded and from whom bids or proposals will not be solicited.
 - (b) The list shall show as a minimum the following information:
 - (1) the names of those concerns or individuals debarred or suspended (in alphabetical order) with appropriate cross-reference where more than one name is involved in a single action;
 - (2) the basis of authority for each action;
 - (3) the extent of restrictions imposed; and,
 - (4) the termination date for each debarred or suspended listing.
 - (c) The list shall be kept current by issuance of notices of additions and deletions.
4. **Treatment to be Accorded Firms or Individuals Debarred or Suspended**
Firms or individuals listed by the Purchasing Department as debarred or suspended shall be treated as follows.
 - (a) **Total restrictions.** A contract shall not be awarded to a concern or individual that is listed on the basis of a Section 5(a)(1), (2) or (3) felony "conviction", or to any concern, corporation, partnership, or association in which the listed concern or individual has actual control or a material interest; nor shall bids or proposals be solicited therefrom. However, when it is determined essential in the public interest by the City Commission, an exception may be made with respect to a particular procurement action where the individual or concern is effectively the sole source of supply or it is an emergency purchase.
 - (b) **Restrictions on subcontracting.** If a concern or individual listed on the debarred and suspended bidders list is proposed as a subcontractor, the Purchasing Department shall decline to approve subcontracting with that firm or individual in any instance in which consent is required of the City before the subcontract is made, unless it is determined by the City to grant approval City Commission essential to public interest and the individual or concern is effectively the sole source of supply or it is an emergency purchase.
5. **Causes and Conditions Applicable to Determination of Debarment.**
Subject to the following conditions, the Purchasing is authorized to debar a firm or individual in the public interest for any of the following causes occurring with ten (10) years of debarment.

- (a) Causes
 - (1) "Conviction" for commission of a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract, or subcontract thereunder, or in the performance of such contract or subcontract.
 - (2) "Convictions" of embezzlement, theft, forgery, issuance of worthless checks, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, perjury, or receiving stolen property where the conviction is based upon conduct which arose out of, or was related to, business operations of the bidder.
 - (3) "Conviction" for bid-rigging activities arising out of the submission of bids or proposals.
 - (4) Violation of contract provisions, as set forth below, of a character which is regarded by the City to be so serious as to justify debarment action:
 - (i) willful failure to perform in accordance with the specifications or within the time limit provided in the contract;
 - (ii) a record of failure to perform or of unsatisfactory performance in accordance with the terms of one or more contracts. Failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance caused by acts beyond the control of the firm or individual as a contractor shall not be considered to be a basis for debarment.
 - (5) Debarment by any other governmental agency.
- (b) Conditions.
 - (1) Debarment for any of the causes set forth in this section shall be made only upon approval of the Purchasing.
 - (2) The existence of any of the causes set forth in (a) of this section does not necessarily require that a firm or individual be debarred except as provided in 4(a). In each instance, whether the offense or failure, or inadequacy of performance, be of criminal, fraudulent, or serious nature, the decision to debar shall only be made if supported by a preponderance of the credible evidence available. Likewise, all mitigating factors may be considered in determining the seriousness of the offense, failure, or inadequacy of performance, in deciding whether debarment is warranted. The actual or apparent authority of an involved individual, the present relationship of involved individuals with the bidder, the past performance of the individual or concern, and the relationship of the violation to the services or materials involved shall be considered.
 - (3) The existence of a cause set forth in (a)(1), (2), and (3) of this section shall be established by criminal "conviction" by a court of competent jurisdiction. In the event that an appeal taken from such conviction results in reversal of the "conviction", the debarment shall be removed upon the request of the bidder (unless other causes for debarment exists). For the purposes of this policy, the following shall have the same effect as a "conviction": pleading guilty or nolo contendere, or being found guilty by a jury or court of, the offense in question, regardless of whether probation is imposed and adjudication withheld.
 - (4) The existence of a cause set forth in (a)(4) and (5) of this section shall be established by a preponderance of credible evidence by the Purchasing.
 - (5) Debarment for the cause set forth in (a)(5) of this section (debarment by another agency) shall be proper if one of the causes for debarment set forth in (a)(1) through (4) of this section was the basis for debarment by the original debarring agency. Such debarment may be based entirely on the record of facts obtained by the original debarring agency, or upon a combination of such facts and additional facts.

5.1 Period of Debarment.

- (a) Debarment of a firm or individual shall be for a reasonable, definitely stated period of time commensurate with the seriousness of the offense or the failure or inadequacy or performance. As a general rule, a period of debarment shall not exceed five (5) years. However, when partial or total debarment for an additional period is deemed necessary, notice of the proposed additional debarment shall be furnished to that concern or individual in accordance with Section 8.
- (b) A debarment may be removed or the period thereof may be reduced by the City Manager upon the submission of an application supported by documentary evidence, setting forth appropriate grounds for the granting of relief; such as newly discovered material evidence, reversal of a conviction, bona fide change of ownership or management, or the elimination of the causes for which the debarment was imposed. The City Manager may request additional information, shall consider all relevant facts, and shall render a decision within twenty (20) days of receipt of the application unless a longer period is warranted under the circumstances.

6. Suspension of Bidders.

- (a) Suspension is a drastic action and, as such, shall not be based upon an unsupported accusation. In assessing whether evidence exists for invoking a suspension, consideration should be given to the amount of credible evidence which is available, to the existence or absence of corroboration as to important allegations, as well as to the inferences which may properly be drawn from the existence or absence of affirmative facts. This assessment should include an examination of basic documents, such as contracts, inspection reports, and correspondence. In making a determination to suspend, the Purchasing shall consider the factors set forth in Section 5(b)(2). A suspension may be modified by the City Manager as described in Section 5.1(b).

6.1 Causes and Conditions Under Which the City May Suspend Contractors

- (a) The Purchasing may, in the interest of the City, suspend a firm or individual when the firm or individual is suspected, upon credible evidence, of having committed one or more the following act(s) within three (3) years of the date of suspension:
 - (1) Commission of fraud or a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining, attempting to obtain, or in the performance of a public contract;
 - (2) Violation of statutes concerning bid-rigging activities out of the submission of bids and proposals; and,
 - (3) Commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, issuance of worthless checks, bribery, falsification, or destruction of records, perjury, receiving stolen property. Commission of any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty which seriously and directly affects the question of present responsibility as a City contractor.

6.2 Period of Suspension.

- (a) All suspension shall be for temporary period pending the completion of an investigation and such legal proceedings as may ensue. In the event that prosecution has not been initiated within twelve (12) months form the date of the suspension, the suspension shall be terminated. Upon removal of suspension, consideration may be given to debarment in accordance with Section 5 of this policy.

7. Scope of Debarment or Suspension.

- (a) A debarment or suspension may include all known affiliates of a concern or individual.
- (b) Each decision to include a known affiliate within the scope of a proposed debarment or suspension is to be made on a case-by-case basis, after giving due regard to actual or apparent authority of the controlling concern or individual and similarity of the services provided by the affiliate to those provided by the debarred individual or concern.
- (c) The criminal, fraudulent, or seriously improper conduct of an individual may be imputed to the business concern with which he is connected, where such impropriety was accomplished within the course of his official duty or apparent authority, or was effected by him with the knowledge and approval of that concern. When the individual was an officer of the concern, knowledge and approval may be presumed. Likewise, where a concern is involved in criminal, fraudulent, or seriously improper conduct, any individual who was involved in the commission of the impropriety may be debarred or suspended.

8. Notice of Debarment or Suspension.

When the Purchasing seeks to debar or suspend a concern or individual (or any affiliate thereof) for cause, it shall furnish that party with a written notice:

- (1) stating that debarment or suspension is being considered;
- (2) setting forth the reasons for the proposed action;
- (3) indicating that such party will be afforded an opportunity for a hearing if he so requests one within ten (10) days; and,
- (4) indicating that such party may make a written response in accordance with Section 9(a).

9. Response to Notice of Debarment or Suspension.

- (a) In lieu of requesting a hearing within the prescribed ten (10) day period, the party may, within said ten (10) day period, notify the City of its intent to provide a written reply and submit written evidence to contest the debarment or suspension. Such written evidence must be submitted within twenty (20) days after receipt of the notice of proposed debarment or suspension in order for it to be considered.
- (b) Whatever response is received to the notice of intent to debar or suspend, such will be considered in determining whether debarment or suspension action will be made. Where a reply is received to the notice of intent to debar or to suspend, and evidence to refute such action is furnished but no hearing is requested, the information furnished will be considered in determining the action to be taken.
- (c) If a hearing is requested, it shall be conducted by the City Manager. The hearing will be held at a location convenient to the City as determined by the City Manager and on a date and at a time stated. An opportunity shall be afforded to the firm or individual to appear with witnesses and counsel, to present facts or circumstances showing cause why such firm or individual should not be debarred or suspended. The proceeding shall be of an informal nature as determined by the City Manager. After consideration of the facts, the City Manager shall notify the firm or individual of the final decision.
- (d) If no response is made to the notice of debarment or suspension within the first ten (10) day period, the decision of the Purchasing shall be deemed final and the party so notified.

10. Rejection of Bids, Breach of Contract.

- (a) Previously solicited and/or accepted bids may be rejected or acceptance revoked prior to beginning of performance upon discovery by the City that the bidder or its affiliates have committed any act which would have been cause for debarment.
- (b) If after a contract is awarded and performance has been begun the City discovers that the bidder or its affiliates have committed any act prior to award or acceptance which would have been cause for debarment had it been discovered prior to solicitation or acceptance, the City may consider such to be a material breach of the contract and such shall constitute cause for termination of the contract.

- (c) If after bids have been solicited and/or accepted or after a contract is awarded and performance begun, the City discovers that the bidder or its affiliates committed any act prior to award or acceptance which would have been cause for disbarment or suspension had it been discovered prior to solicitation or acceptance, the City may require additional satisfactory assurances that such act(s) have not occurred and that the contract can and will be faithfully performed. If additional assurances are requested and are not satisfactory or if the bidder or its affiliates fail to immediately cooperate with all reasonable requests, including requests for information reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant evidence, then such may be considered a material breach of the contract and such shall constitute cause for termination of the contract.

ARTICLE X. LOCAL PREFERENCE POLICY*

***Editor's note:** Section 9 of Ord. No. 001261 states: "This ordinance shall become effective October 1, 2004, and shall be reviewed by the City Commission October 1, 2005, and unless extended by action of the City Commission, shall be deemed repealed effective March 31, 2006, provided that it shall remain applicable to new contracts solicited prior to repeal."

Sec. 2-620. Findings of fact.

The city annually spends significant amounts on purchasing personal property, materials, and contractual services and in constructing improvements to real property or to existing structures. The dollars used in making those purchases are derived, in large part, from taxes, fees, and utility revenues derived from local businesses in the corporate city limits of Gainesville, and the city commission has determined that funds generated in the community should, to the extent possible, be placed back into the local economy. Therefore, the city commission has determined that it is in the best interest of the city to give a preference to local businesses in the corporate city limits of Gainesville in making such purchases whenever the application of such a preference is reasonable in light of the dollar-value of proposals received in relation to such expenditures.

(Ord. No. 001261, § 1, 3-29-04)

Sec. 2-621. Definition.

"Local business" means the vendor has a valid occupational license, issued by the City of Gainesville at least six months prior to bid or proposal opening date, to do business in said locality that authorizes the business to provide the goods, services, or construction to be purchased, and a physical business address located within the limits of said locality, in an area zoned for the conduct of such business, from which the vendor operates or performs business on a day-to-day basis. Post office boxes are not verifiable and shall not be used for the purpose of establishing said physical address. In order to be eligible for local preference, the vendor must provide a copy of the occupational license.

(Ord. No. 001261, § 2, 3-29-04)

Sec. 2-622. Local preference in purchasing and contracting.

In bidding of, or letting contracts for procurement of, supplies, materials, equipment and services, as described in the purchasing policies, the city commission, or other purchasing authority, may give a preference to local businesses in making such purchase or awarding such contract in an amount not to exceed five percent of the local business' total bid price, as described below, and in any event the cost differential should not exceed \$25,000.00. Total bid price shall include not only the base bid price but also all alterations to that base bid price resulting from alternates which were both part of the bid and actually purchased or awarded by the city commission or other authority. In the case of requests for proposals, letters of interest, best evaluated bids, qualifications or other solicitations and competitive negotiation and selection in which objective factors are used to evaluate the responses, local businesses are assigned five percent of the total points of the total evaluation points.

(Ord. No. 001261, § 3, 3-29-04)

Sec. 2-623. Exceptions to local preference policy.

The preference set forth in this Article X shall not apply to any of the following purchases or contracts:

- (1) Good or services provided under a cooperative purchasing agreement;

- (2) Contracts for professional services procurement of which is subject to the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act (F.S. § 287.055) or subject to any competitive consultant selection policy or procedure adopted or utilized by the city commission or charter officer;
- (3) Purchases or contracts which are funded, in whole or in part, by a governmental entity and the laws, regulations, or policies governing such funding prohibit application of that preference; or
- (4) Purchases made or contracts let under emergency or noncompetitive situations, or for litigation related legal services, etc., as such are described in the city's purchasing policies;
- (5) Purchases with an estimated cost of \$50,000.00 or less;
- (6) Application of local preference to a particular purchase, contract, or category of contracts for which the city commission is the awarding authority may be waived upon written justification and recommendation of the charter officer and approval of the city commission. The preferences established herein in no way prohibit the right of the city commission or other purchasing authority to compare quality or fitness for use of supplies, materials, equipment and services proposed for purchase and compare qualifications, character, responsibility and fitness of all persons, firms, or corporations submitting bids or proposals. Further, the preferences established herein in no way prohibit the right of the city commission or other purchasing authority from giving any other preference permitted by law in addition to the preference authorized herein.

(Ord. No. 001261, § 4, 3-29-04)

Sec. 2-624. Application, enforcement.

The local preference shall apply to new contracts for supplies, materials, equipment and services first solicited after October 1, 2004. This article shall be implemented in a fashion consistent with otherwise applicable city purchasing policies and procedures.

(Ord. No. 001261, § 5, 3-29-04)

CITY OF GAINESVILLE

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH LIVING WAGE

The undersigned hereby agrees to comply with the terms of the Living Wage Ordinance and to pay all covered employees, as defined by City of Gainesville Ordinance 020663 as amended at 030168 (Living Wage Ordinance), during the time they are directly involved in providing covered services under the contract with the City of Gainesville for _____ a living wage of \$_____ per hour to covered employees who receive Health Benefits from the undersigned employer and \$_____ per hour to covered employees not offered health care benefits by the undersigned employer.

Name of Service Contractor/Subcontractor: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Name of Local Contact Person _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
\$ _____ (Amount of Contract)

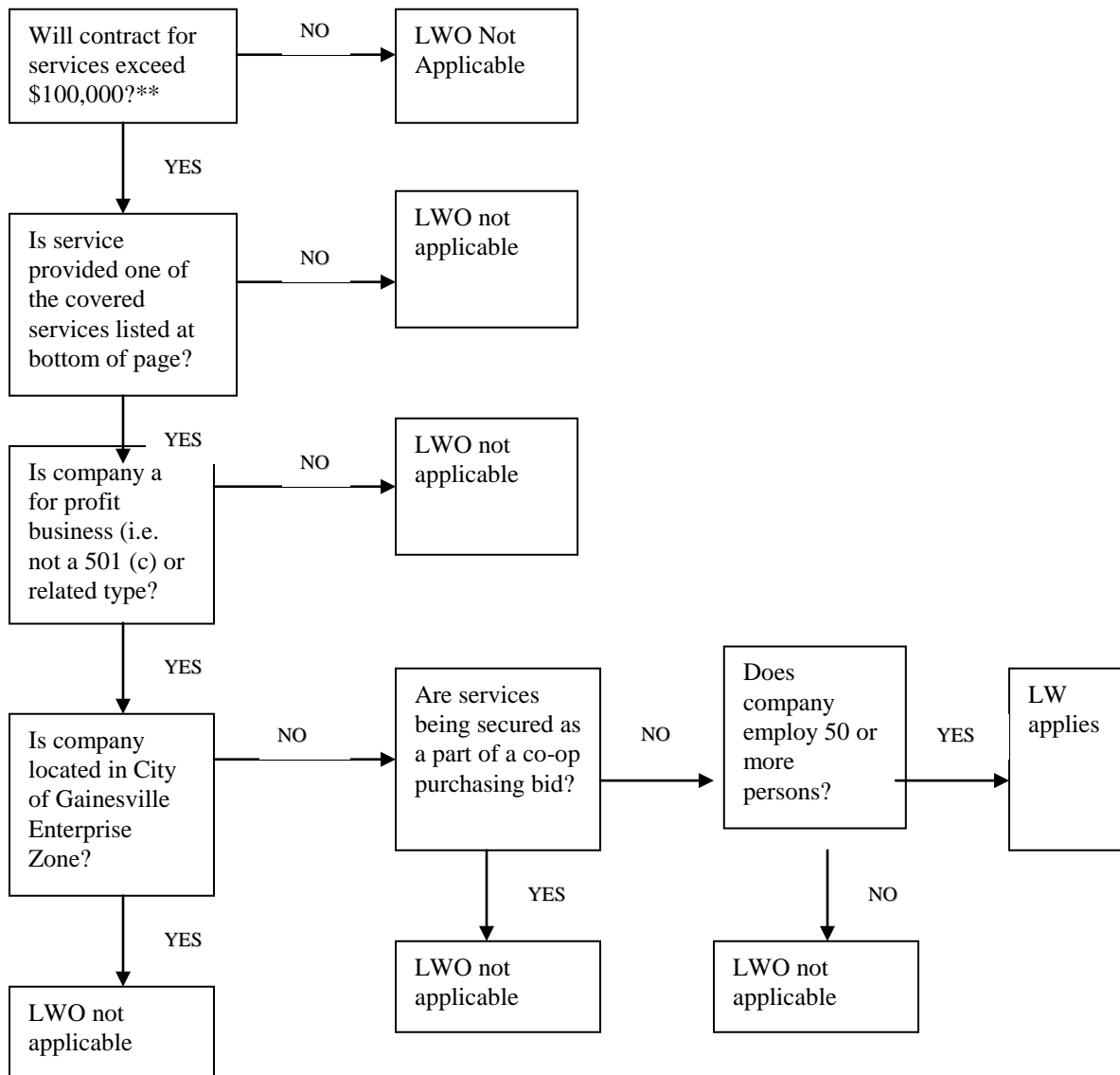
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

LIVING WAGE DECISION TREE

While not all encompassing, the following is provided as a guideline for contractors in determining whether the City of Gainesville Living Wage Ordinance applies to their firm in the performance of specified service contracts for covered services* with the City. Contractors are advised to review the entire text of the Living Wage Ordinance in conjunction with this guideline.



***Covered Services:** food preparation and/or distribution; custodial/cleaning; refuse removal; maintenance and repair; recycling; parking services; painting/refinishing; printing and reproduction services; landscaping/grounds maintenance; agricultural/forestry services; and construction services
****Total value of contract.**

LIVING WAGE COMPLIANCE
See Living Wage Decision Tree (Exhibit C hereto)

Check one:

- Living Wage Ordinance does not apply
(check all that apply)
- Not a covered service
 - Contract does not exceed \$100,000
 - Not a for-profit individual, business entity, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, or similar business, who or which employees 50 or more persons, but not including employees of any subsidiaries, affiliates or parent businesses.
 - Located within the City of Gainesville enterprise zone.
- Living Wage Ordinance applies and the completed Certification of Compliance with Living Wage is included with this bid.

NOTE: If Contractor has stated Living Wage Ordinance does not apply and it is later determined Living Wage Ordinance does apply, Contractor will be required to comply with the provision of the City of Gainesville's living wage requirements, as applicable, without any adjustment to the bid price.

PROPOSAL RESPONSE FORM – SIGNATURE PAGE

(submit this form with your proposal)

TO: City of Gainesville, Florida
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

PROJECT: Federal Lobbying and Advocacy Services

RFP #: SIDX-180004-DH

RFP DUE DATE:

Proposer's Legal Name: _____

Proposer's Alias/DBA: _____

Proposer's
Address

PROPOSER'S REPRESENTATIVE (to be contacted for additional information on this proposal)

Name: _____ Telephone Number _____

Date: _____ Fax Number _____

Email address _____

ADDENDA

The Proposer hereby acknowledges receipt of Addenda No.'s _____, _____, _____,
to these Specifications.

TAXES

The Proposer agrees that any applicable Federal, State and Local sales and use taxes, which are to be paid by City of Gainesville, are included in the stated bid prices. Since often the City of Gainesville is exempt from taxes for equipment, materials and services, it is the responsibility of the Contractor to determine whether sales taxes are applicable. The Contractor is liable for any applicable taxes which are not included in the stated bid prices.

LOCAL PREFERENCE (check one)

Local Preference requested: YES NO

A copy of your Business tax receipt and Zoning Compliance Permit should be submitted with your bid if a local preference is requested.

QUALIFIED LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS STATUS (check one)

Is your business qualified as a Local Small Business in accordance with the City of Gainesville Small Business Procurement Program? (Refer to Definitions) YES NO

SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' BUSINESS (check one)

Is your business certified as a service-disabled veterans' business? YES NO

LIVING WAGE COMPLIANCE

See Living Wage Decision Tree (Exhibit C hereto)

Check One:

- Living Wage Ordinance does not apply
(check all that apply)
 - Not a covered service
 - Contract does not exceed \$100,000
 - Not a for-profit individual, business entity, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, or similar business, who or which employees 50 or more persons, but not including employees of any subsidiaries, affiliates or parent businesses.
 - Located within the City of Gainesville enterprise zone.

- Living Wage Ordinance applies and the completed Certification of Compliance with Living Wage is included with this bid.

NOTE: If Contractor has stated Living Wage Ordinance does not apply and it is later determined Living Wage Ordinance does apply, Contractor will be required to comply with the provision of the City of Gainesville's living wage requirements, as applicable, without any adjustment to the bid price.

SIGNATURE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT: (check one)

- Proposal is in full compliance with the Specifications.
- Proposal is in full compliance with specifications except as specifically stated and attached hereto.

Signature also acknowledges that Proposer has read the current City of Gainesville Debarment/Suspension/Termination Procedures and agrees that the provisions thereof shall apply to this RFP.

ATTEST: _____ Signature By: _____ Title: _____	(CORPORATE SEAL) PROPOSER: _____ Signature By: _____ Title: _____
--	--

**CITY OF GAINESVILLE
GENERAL GOVERNMENT
PURCHASING DIVISION SURVEY
BID INFORMATION**

RFP #: SIDX-180004-DH

DUE DATE: May 4, 2017

SEALED PROPOSAL ON: Federal Lobbying and Advocacy Services

IF YOU DO NOT BID

Please check the appropriate or explain:

- _____ 1. Not enough bid response time.
- _____ 2. Specifications not clear.
- _____ 3. Do not submit bids to Municipalities.
- _____ 4. Current work load does not permit time to bid.
- _____ 5. Delay in payment from Governmental agencies.
- _____ 6. Do not handle this item.
- _____ 7. Other: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Are you a minority business? yes _____ no _____

RFP (09/22/03)
Rev. local pref. 10/1/04;7/25/05;10/05;4/06;10/06;3/07;10/11;05/12;03/16

This form Document No. P04-213 is a legal instrument approved by the City Attorney. Any deviations from its intended use should be authorized by the City Attorney