



# CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASING DIVISION SURVEY BID INFORMATION

Date:

Bid Date:

3:00 P.M. (Local Time)

Bid Name: **RFP for Insurance Brokerage/  
Consultation Services**

RFP No: PIOX-050158-FP

### 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 workload does not permit time to bid.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Delay in payment from governmental agencies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Do not handle this item.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7.0 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a minority business? YES  NO

# **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 measures 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 offerers 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," "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 who 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) This 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, 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 the City

Commission determines it essential in the public interest, 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 Determine of Debarment.

Subject to the following conditions, the Department of Management and Financial Services is authorized to debar a firm or individual in the public interest for any of the following causes occurring within 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 some 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 Department of Management and Financial Services.
- (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 Department of Management and Financial Services.
- (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 with 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 Department of Management and Financial Services 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 Department of Management and Financial Services 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 from 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 Department of Management and Financial Services 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.
- (d) If no response is made to the notice of debarment or suspension within the first ten (10) day period, the decision of the Department of Management and Financial Services 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 debarment 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 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.