



City of Newark

City Hall
920 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Legislation Text

File #: 18-1763, Version: 1

Dept/ Agency: Law

Action: () Ratifying (X) Authorizing () Amending

Type of Service: Professional Services Contract

Purpose: To serve as Per Diem Attorneys in the Newark Municipal Court

Entity Name: Multiple Vendors - See list below

Entity Address: Multiple Vendors - See list below

Contract Amount: For a cumulative amount for all nine (9) vendors not to exceed \$150,000.00

Funding Source: 2019 Budget/Law Department

Contract Period: January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Contract Basis: () Bid () State Vendor (X) Prof. Ser. () EUS

(X) Fair & Open () No Reportable Contributions () RFP (X) RFQ

() Private Sale () Grant () Sub-recipient () n/a

Additional Information:

1. Evelyn Akushie-Onyeani, Esq., Onyeani Law Firm, LLC, 76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 200, South Orange New Jersey 07079;
2. Cheryl Craft, Esq., 59 Robins Place, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840;
3. Gina DeVito, Esq., 20 Church Street, #1, Montclair, New Jersey 07042;
4. Law Offices of Sheila D. Ellington, 133 High Street, Mount Holly, New Jersey 08060;
5. Gracia Robert Montilus, Esq., d/b/a GRM Legal Works LLC, 76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 109, South Orange, New Jersey 07079;
6. Steven R. Hummell, Esq., 697 Kearny Avenue, Kearny, New Jersey 07032;
7. Connie Bentley McGhee, Esq., 292 Lafayette Street, Newark, New Jersey 07105;
8. Daniel Serratelli, Esq., 172 New York Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07105; and
9. Charlotte L. Smith, Esq., 31 Brandywyne Drive, Florham Park, New Jersey 07932

WHEREAS, the City of Newark operates a Municipal Court and has a need to engage attorneys as Special Municipal Prosecutors; and

WHEREAS, Legal Services are Professional Services exempt from the requirement for public bidding, pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i); and

WHEREAS, the City of Newark is desirous of acquiring such legal services as fair and open contracts pursuant to the provisions of the Local Pay- to-Play Statute, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation Counsel of the City of Newark caused to be published on the City of Newark's website, a Notice of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Municipal Prosecutor Services on or about September 10, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newark received a total of nine (9) proposals in response to its request and one was disqualified for non-compliance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newark wishes to award a multiple-vendor contract for the period from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, to be used in the City of Newark's sole discretion on an "as needed" basis during the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative amount of compensation for nine (9) vendors awarded contracts under this multiple award contract shall not exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$150,000.00) for the contract term; and

WHEREAS, each vendor shall expressly acknowledge and agree that services may be required from any and/or all of the single vendors with no single vendor receiving any promise or guarantee of minimum compensation except for a flat daily fee of \$250.00 per session should such service be required; and

WHEREAS, eight (8) vendors submitted proposals and it was found based upon price and other factors to be in the best interest of the City of Newark to accept the eight (8) proposals for the purpose of providing legal services concerning, Special Municipal Prosecutors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newark wishes to enter into contracts with the following eight (8) vendors in a multiple vendor award to provide legal services concerning Special Municipal Prosecutors, for the cumulative amount for all of the vendors not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$150,000.00), for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019:

1. Evelyn Akushie-Onyeani, Esq., Onyeani Law Firm, LLC, 76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 200, South Orange New Jersey 07079;
2. Cheryl Craft, Esq., 59 Robins Place, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840;
3. Gina DeVito, Esq., 20 Church Street, #1, Montclair, New Jersey 07042;
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WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that notice of the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be published in a local newspaper; and

WHEREAS, this contract is for an amount over \$17,500.00 and is being awarded as a fair and open contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council adopted the Contractor Pay to Play Reform Ordinance, Newark, New Jersey, Municipal Code § 2:4-22C, which forbids the award of a contract to a Business Entity, as defined therein, which has made or solicited political contributions to Newark Municipal and County of Essex Candidates, office holders having ultimate responsibility for the award of a contract; candidate committees of the aforementioned candidates; and political or political party committees of

the City of Newark or County of Essex; and continuing political committees or political action committees regularly engaged in the support of the City of Newark municipal or County of Essex elections; and certain other political party or candidate committees, in excess of certain thresholds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

1. The Mayor of the City of Newark, and/or his designee, the Corporation Counsel, are authorized on behalf of the City of Newark to execute contracts with the following vendors to provide legal services in the capacity as Special Municipal Prosecutor:
 1. Evelyn Akushie-Onyeani, Esq., Onyeani Law Firm, LLC, 76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 200, South Orange New Jersey 07079;
 2. Cheryl Craft, Esq., 59 Robins Place, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840;
 3. Gina DeVito, Esq., 20 Church Street, #1, Montclair, New Jersey 07042;
 4. Law Offices of Sheila D. Ellington, 133 High Street, Mt. Holly, New Jersey 08060;
 5. Gracia Robert Montilus, Esq., d/b/a GRM Legal Works LLC, 76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 109, South Orange, New Jersey 07079;
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 8. Daniel Serratelli, Esq., 172 New York Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07105.
 9. Charlotte L. Smith, Esq. 31 Brandywyne Drive, Florham Park, New Jersey 07932.
2. This is a multiple award contract and no vendor shall have any expectation as to minimum compensation under this multiple award.
3. Services may be required from any and/or all of the single vendors; however, the cumulative amount of compensation for all of the vendors shall not exceed One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$150,000.00), for the period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.
4. These contracts are being awarded pursuant to the fair and open procedures of the State Pay-to-Play Law (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5) and pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i)) and are in compliance with the City of Newark's Contractor Pay-to-Play Reform Ordinance, Newark, New Jersey Municipal Code § 2:4-22C.
5. This multiple vendor contract shall be awarded in one fiscal year although the date on which it will properly take effect falls in the next fiscal year. Accordingly, this multiple vendor contract is subject to the availability and appropriation of sufficient funds in the year in which it takes effect. N.J. Admin. Code 5:30-5.5(e). Funds for this multiple vendor contract in a cumulative amount not to exceed One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$150,000.00), shall be provided by the City of Newark 2019 Budget, Law Department.
6. A copy of the executed agreement herein authorized shall be filed in the Office of the City Clerk by the Corporation Counsel and shall be made available for public inspection.

7. A notice of this action shall be published in the newspaper authorized by law to publish a legal advertisement and as required by law within ten (10) days of the adoption of this Resolution.

STATEMENT

This Resolution authorizes the Mayor of the City of Newark and/or his designee, the Corporation Counsel, to enter into a multiple vendor contract with:

1. Evelyn Akushie-Onyeani, Esq., Onyeani Law Firm, LLC, 76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 200, South Orange New Jersey 07079;
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to provide legal services in the capacity as Special Municipal Prosecutors for the cumulative amount not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$150,000.00), for the period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.