

AGENDA



Thursday, January 31, 2008

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 62**

Subject: Authorize award and execution of Amendment No. 5 to a contract with AUSTIN FREE-NET, Austin TX, to continue providing computer equipment, technical support, internet training, and internet access services to support public internet access for an additional 44-month period in an estimated amount not to exceed \$197,325, with two 12-month extension options in an estimated amount not to exceed \$53,816 per extension option, for a revised total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$564,937.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$35,878 is available in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Approved Operating Budget of the Financial and Administrative Services Department. Funding for the remaining 36 months of the original contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated Fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Mario Guerrero, Sr. Buyer 974.2596

Purchasing Language: Contract amendment.

MBE/WBE: This contract was awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). This agreement is an exemption through Chapter 791 of the Texas Local Government Code and no goals were established for this contract.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission.

Prior Council Action: 01/09/2003 – Approved 12-month subscription service agreement, with four 12-month extension options.

In 2003, the City of Austin and Austin-Free Net (AFN), non-profit, educational organization, entered into its current 12-month subscription agreement, with four 12-month extension options. Austin Free-Net placed public computers in the 21 Austin public libraries and provided training. The City launched its website and offers City information and services on-line. It is the City's desire that all of its citizens have access to technology and City on-line information and services through public access sites provided by Austin Free-Net.

There are two City employees assigned to work at Austin Free-Net. Through this contract and various outside grants, the salaries and fringe of the two loaned City employees are used as matching funds. A 3.5% inflation adjustment was approved by council for all social services contracts and is included in this contract.

AFN is able to leverage City dollars to provide free access to well-equipped computers and the Internet via broadband or other emerging technologies (wireless) and training through community computer lab site partnerships with City departments, community centers, social services providers, basic needs

providers and others who serve residents without this access. AFN is currently serving 14 community sites including the City of Austin Senior Center, Parks and Recreation facilities, a Health and Human Services facility, the Arthur B. DeWitty Job Training and Employment Center, low-income housing projects, and community-based organizations.

AFN is the only organization offering citywide public access to the Internet and other emerging technologies and AFN acts as a bridge and public education conduit between the City and the community in the area of equitable access to computers and the Internet. AFN is a member of the City's Community Technology Initiative, which also includes the Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOP) program. This initiative seeks to bridge the digital divide and provide digital opportunities by providing free, community access to computer technology, enhancing employability and technical skills of individuals, promoting community awareness of and comfort with emerging technology, and educating and encouraging local agencies to develop and maintain their own Internet based content and services.