

## AGENDA



Thursday, February 28, 2008

**Purchasing Office  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 43**

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**Subject:** Authorize award and execution of an interlocal agreement with DALLAS COUNTY acting through the SOUTHWESTERN INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCES AT DALLAS, Dallas, TX, for toxicological, environmental, and physical evidence analysis in an estimated annual amount of \$60,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding in the amount of \$35,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department. Funding for the remaining five 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:** Sydney Ceder, Senior Buyer/974-2035

**Purchasing Language:** Interlocal Agreement.

**MBE/WBE:** This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority – Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). This contract is an Interlocal Agreement; therefore, it is exempted under Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code. No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.

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This interlocal agreement is for forensic laboratory services to include toxicological, environmental and physical evidence analysis and other similar forensic analytical services for the Austin Police Department (APD). APD Chemistry Laboratory does not have the equipment to conduct drug or drug metabolite testing. To process these samples internally, APD would need to purchase \$500,000 worth of capital equipment and hire a chemist qualified to perform toxicology tests and provide expert witness testimony.

Sexual assaults and driving under the influence of narcotics and alcohol investigations require these types of analysis to complete the criminal investigation and resulting prosecutions. Testing services and expert witness testimony provided by Dallas County will assist APD and the District Attorney's Office in its traffic and law enforcement cases.

Travis County no longer is able to provide these services to the City. Dallas County is the only other public entity with the necessary equipment that is willing and able to perform all of the evidence testing required by APD. This is a requirements type contract that will enable APD to have reliable evidence testing performed on an as needed basis. The contract allows the City to cancel the agreement upon 30 days notice. Actual amounts paid will vary each month as demand usage changes.