

AGENDA



Thursday, October 23, 2008

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 34**

Subject: Authorize execution of a participation agreement with VIRGINIA MASON HOSPITAL, DBA AMERINET – HEALTH RESOURCE SERVICES, Seattle, WA, for the purchase of various types of goods and services offered on existing contracts.

Amount and Source of Funding: Procurements under this participation agreement will not be made unless funds are available in the Community Care Services Department Operating Budget.

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

For More Information: Barbara McConnell, Buyer II/972-4009

Purchasing Language: Cooperative Purchase.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9D of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). This contract is a Cooperative Purchase; therefore, it is exempted under Chapter 252.022 of the Texas Local Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

Approval of this agreement will allow the Community Care Services Department (CCSD) to participate in the purchase of various types of goods and services, such as office supplies, disposable medical supplies, laboratory & testing services, consulting services, and radiological services, by the use of contracts already in place through Amerinet. Amerinet is one of the nation's largest healthcare group purchasing organizations. More than 2,100 hospitals and 38,000 non-acute care facilities create new revenue and reduce expenses with Amerinet's tools for group purchasing, supply chain management, clinical consulting, revenue cycle management, and information and education.

In order to meet the cost reduction needs of their members, Amerinet has developed the largest portfolio of purchasing contracts available in the healthcare industry. Each member facility or organization has access to the complete contract offering, unless otherwise dictated by the contracted manufacturer. Contracts offered cover such areas as laboratory services, office supplies, and medical and surgical supplies.

Amerinet performs the solicitation process for the benefit of its members, eliminating the cost of competitive bidding for Amerinet participants. Amerinet members benefit from reduced costs of goods and services through volume discounts, as bids are based on a much larger user population than what is available to individual group purchasing participants.

Purchases exceeding the City Manager's authorized limit (currently \$53,000) will be brought forward for approval on a case-by-case basis prior to CCSD's ordering the products or services.

This agreement is entered into under the provisions of the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, Texas Government Code.