

AGENDA



Thursday, April 2, 2009

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 18**

Subject: Approve ratification of purchases of supplies and services from Aramark Sports & Entertainment, Austin, TX in the amount of \$384,308.20 and WalMart, Austin, TX in the amount of \$91,488 to provide support for Hurricane Ike evacuees.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funds will be reimbursed by the State of Texas Department of Emergency Management through a grant to the City for sheltering operations.

For More Information: Mark Walsh, Programmer Analyst Senior/512-322-6155

Purchasing Language: Public Health and Safety.

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 was an emergency service contract; therefore, it is exempted under Chapter 252 of the Texas Local Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

September 9, 2008, the City of Austin took immediate actions to respond to the evacuation requirements caused by Hurricane Ike. These actions were taken to allow the City to provide evacuees with shelter, food, medical, and sanitation services. While the City has extensive practice providing these goods and services to evacuees as a result of the 2004 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, these support capabilities are not part of the City's normal operations.

As might be expected, these goods and services are under intense demand at a regional level as cities and counties, under the guidance of the State Department of Emergency Management, readied themselves to provide effective support upon the arrival of evacuees; therefore, time to acquire necessary goods and services was shortened to the maximum extent possible. The normal purchasing process was suspended under the Public Health and Safety portions of applicable State law.

The following purchases, each of which exceeds the City Manager's Administrative Authority (at the time \$50,000), were made in support of evacuees and staff engaged in direct support of evacuees:

1. 24-hour per day Hurricane Ike evacuee feeding service at the Austin Convention Center, Aramark Sports Entertainment, \$384,308.20
2. Air Mattresses, WalMart, Inc., \$91,488

Aramark Sports & Entertainment has an exclusive contract to provide feeding services at the Austin Convention Center. This exclusivity is the result of various aspects of food handler licensing required by the Health Code. It would not have been practical to contract for food service with a different organization. This is consistent with the City's actions to support evacuees during Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Gustav.

WalMart, Inc. provided the City with an emergency sourcing option in which volume quantities of emergency supplies could be acquired and shipped.

The above list only includes purchases that exceed \$50,000. Other purchases have been made that fall within delegated purchasing authority, including expenses for sheltering related to Hurricane Ike.