

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: October 19, 2017

Item Number: **017**

Purchasing Office

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, to provide deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) consulting services, for a term of one year in an amount not to exceed \$400,000. (This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C, Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established.).

Lead Department	Purchasing Office.
Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$200,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department. A fiscal note is not required.
Purchasing Language	Professional Service.
For More Information	Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov or to the buyer, Erin D'Vincent, at 512-974-3070 or Erin.DVincent@austintexas.gov .
Client Department(s)	City Manager's Office.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide the City with deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) consulting services from the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania Law School to identify strategies to address the recommendations presented in the July 8, 2016 Texas Forensic Science Commission's (TFSC) audit report. In May 2016, the Austin Police Department (APD) invited members from the TFSC and the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board to conduct a site audit of the APD Forensic Services Division DNA Laboratory. Findings from that audit prompted APD to close the DNA laboratory.

The TFSC audit findings and the closure of the APD DNA lab had impacts for both the City, from an investigations perspective, and the County from the perspective of relying on potentially faulty DNA evidence to ensure that justice is properly served. Accordingly, representatives from the city, county, and legal defense organizations formed a working group to ensure these perspectives were addressed.

The consultant(s) will identify options and make recommendations on the optimal organizational structure, staffing, training and leadership for the forensic DNA section of an accredited publicly funded crime laboratory for the Austin community. The plan will be based on best practices in crime laboratory organizations/agencies as well as applicable accreditation standards. A separate agreement with Travis County provides the structure for the city and county to share in the management and oversight of the consultant's work as well as a 50/50 sharing of the cost of this contract.

A delay in approving or failure to approve this contract will result in the absence of scientific expertise to assist the City in addressing the TFSC's recommendations and delay recommendations for the future provision of DNA analysis services in the best interests of the Austin community.