

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

67803

Agenda Number

27.

Meeting Date:

February 16, 2017

Department:

Purchasing

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with SIGNATURE SCIENCE LLC, for forensic serological and DNA analysis of biological evidence, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Police Federal Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund budget of the Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required, as funding was provided for this purpose in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget.

Purchasing
Language:

Public Health and Safety Exemption

Prior Council
Action:For More
Information:

Erin D'Vincent, Senior Buyer Specialist, 512-974-3070

Boards and
Commission
Action:

Related Items:

MBE / WBE:

This contract is exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established.

Additional Backup Information

The contract will provide services to conduct forensic serological and deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) analysis of biological evidence for the Austin Police Department (APD). Signature Science LLC will assist APD in the testing of casework that the APD in-house laboratory is unable to process. The contract will increase the capacity by up to 60 cases per month.

Signature Science LLC is located in Austin and is fully accredited by the Texas Forensic Science Commission. By contracting with a local laboratory, APD will benefit from greatly reduced shipping costs for casework and from an expedited testing process. APD will also be able to directly transfer evidence in-person, which will assist in ensuring that the proper chain of custody remains intact.

A delay in approving or failure to approve this contract will result in an increased number of untested DNA samples, adding to the existing backlog of DNA cases. Performing these services is essential in assisting law enforcement in identifying unknown suspects, linking DNA profiles between crime scenes, and eliminating suspects in sexual assault cases.