



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 21-1886, **Agenda Item #:** 25.

5/20/2021

### Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a cooperative contract with G4S Secure Solutions (USA) Inc., to provide unarmed security guard services to Municipal Court and the Downtown Austin Community Court, for a term of one year for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,222,860.

(Note: 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.

### Client Department(s)

Municipal Court.

### Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Non-Departmental Operating Budget.

### Purchasing Language:

Multiple cooperative purchase programs were reviewed for these goods and services. The Purchasing Office has determined that these contractors best meet the needs of the department to provide the goods and services required at the best value for the City.

### Prior Council Action:

August 12, 2020 - City Council approved Ordinance No. 20200812-001, the City's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget.

June 11, 2020 - City Council approved Resolution No. 20200611-096, which directed the City Manager to explore options for reallocating positions and roles currently assigned to the Austin Police Department.

### For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or [AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov](mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov) <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>> or to Erin D'Vincent at 512-974-3070 or [erin.dvincent@austintexas.gov](mailto:erin.dvincent@austintexas.gov) <<mailto:erin.dvincent@austintexas.gov>>.

### Additional Backup Information:

Since 2008, Austin Police Department (APD) police officers have provided court security services to the Municipal Court. The Reimagining Public Safety initiative prompted staff to assess if these security services could be replaced by alternative resources, such as private security guards. Beginning Fall 2020, the Building Services Department facilitated discussions with Municipal Court, Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) and the Austin Police Department on how to best outsource court security services. In addition, staff researched what requirements, if any, were necessary for an outside vendor to provide these services to the

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court. It was determined that private security guards would need to be court security certified by the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to provide court security services for the City.

Thirteen APD police officers have provided security services to the Municipal Court since 2008, which decreased to five (5) officers in January 2021. Eight (8) officers were returned to patrol assignments across the city, to maintain adequate staffing levels, and to respond to 9-1-1 calls for service. Currently, there are five APD officers that provide court security services to Municipal Court (3) and the DACC (2), while a contract with an outside vendor is secured for Municipal Court and the DACC. Once the court security services are procured, the five officers will continue to provide key duties that only a law enforcement officer is authorized to provide, such as prisoner transfers (transport from Travis County Jail to DACC); inmate monitoring (to include Class C warrant drop off); warrant service (enforcement of court orders, to include serving warrants, self-surrender warrant confirmation, affirming warrant conditions have met); contempt of court arrests ordered by a judge; and enforcement of lawful orders issued by the presiding judge. The Municipal Court requires the presence of a law enforcement officer in the courtroom corridors (lobby) and the DACC requires law enforcement officers in the courtroom. Continuing the support provided by APD officers will allow for both departments to meet these requirements.

G4S Secure Solutions Inc. was identified as a vendor to provide unarmed security services. The private security guards will perform an array of functions including: operating staff screening stations, performing interior patrols of the building and exterior patrols of parking areas, operating the x-ray and magnetometer and conducting hand inspections, as necessary, staffing the security control room, relaying radio messages, and monitoring alarms. The security guards are required to be TCOLE certified and trained in de-escalation procedures before assuming duties in Municipal Court. The private security will also augment staffing performed by law enforcement officers.

The long-term goal is to re-establish a Marshal Program which will be managed by the Municipal Court. Once the Marshal program is implemented, APD can remove all APD officers from the Court.

G4S Secure Solutions (USA) Inc. is being hired to provide court security services to supplement that of the reduced number of APD law enforcement officers. This agency was determined to be the best to provide these services based on company professional experience, personnel and qualifications, and service capacity. The General Services Administration (GSA) cooperative establishes competitively bid contracts that can be utilized by local, federal and state government agencies through a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements save taxpayer dollars by leveraging the federal and state governments volume-buying power to drive down costs on hundreds of contracts through a streamlined cooperative purchasing program.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Safety.