



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-2718, Agenda Item #: 48.

9/1/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Go Austin/Vamos Austin d/b/a GAVA for the Austin Community-Owned Food Retail Initiative, for a term of 31 months in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

(Note: This solicitation 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 solicitation, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Economic Development Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available from the U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan.

Purchasing Language:

The Financial Services Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) 5500 BY3019 for these services. The solicitation was issued on February 7, 2022 and closed on May 3, 2022. Of the two offers received, the recommended contractor submitted the best evaluated responsive offer. A complete solicitation package, including a log of offers received, is available for viewing on the City's Financial Services website, Austin Finance Online. Link: [Solicitation Documents](https://financeonline.austintexas.gov/afo/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=135988)
<https://financeonline.austintexas.gov/afo/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=135988>.

For More Information:

Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall continue to direct inquiries to the solicitation's Authorized Contact Persons: Brenita Wilkison, at 512-974-3164 or brenita.selement@austintexas.gov <<mailto:brenita.selement@austintexas.gov>> or Al Drayton, at 512-974-2298 or alfonso.drayton@austintexas.gov <<mailto:alfonso.drayton@austintexas.gov>>.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will support the development of a cooperative and/or non-profit grocery store in an underserved area of Austin. It will incorporate organizing, cooperative, or nonprofit development, business feasibility analysis, and pilot store planning and implementation. Council Resolutions 20210325-111 and 20210325-66 prioritize addressing food insecurity and land for local food production. The contract will address inequity in the availability of healthy food options in the Eastern Crescent by exploring the organizing and piloting of a community-owned grocery store. The City does not typically facilitate the direct creation of specific types of businesses in specific areas. However, a variety of Council actions and policies support the direct seeding of a

community-owned food retailer in the Eastern Crescent.

This is a new contract and initiative.

An evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the offers and scored Go Austin/Vamos Austin d/b/a GAVA as the best to provide these services based on project concept and strategy, proposer experience, personnel and project management structure, price, project work sample, local business presence and service-disabled veteran business enterprise.

If a contract is not secured, the City will struggle in its ability to address food insecurity through community engagement and operational planning for a community-owned grocery store in underserved areas of Austin.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability, Health and Environment.