

RESOLUTION

No.

23-084

MAR 09 2023

Date of Adoption

Approved as to Form and Legality

Wesley Bridges, Esq., CITY ATTORNEY

Factual content certified by

ADAM E. CRUZ - BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Councilman/woman

presents the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO CRISTINA VAZQUEZ, ESQ. THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 ET SEQ., TO PROVIDE PROSECUTORIAL SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR FROM JANUARY 1, 2023, TO DECEMBER 31, 2023, IN TRENTON MUNICIPAL COURT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$14,000.00 - RFP2022-47

WHEREAS, the City of Trenton has a need for municipal prosecutorial services with regards to matters concerning Trenton Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, request for proposals were advertised on the City website and nine (9) proposals were received and opened in the City Purchasing Office at 11:00 AM on December 06, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the proposal of Cristina Vazquez, Esq., was reviewed by the evaluation committee and recommended that a contract be awarded at a rate of \$215.00 per regular session and an additional \$300 per session for preparation for video court, (video court prep sessions must be at least two (2) hours or longer); and

WHEREAS, the total contract amount not to exceed \$14,000.00 will cover the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, funds in an amount not to exceed \$14,000.00 have been certified to be available contingent upon the adoption of the temporary or final CY23 Budget in Account No. 3-01- -35-3500-291.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Trenton as follows:

1. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Cristina Vazquez, Esq. in an amount not to exceed \$86,000.00 to provide municipal prosecutorial services.
2. This contract is awarded through a fair and open process as a "Professional Service" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44 A-20.5 et seq. and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:1 I-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the contract is for a service performed by a person(s) authorized by law to practice a recognized profession that is regulated by law.
3. A notice of this action shall be printed once in the official newspaper for the City of Trenton and the Resolution and contract shall remain on file in the City Clerk's Office.

	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent		Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent		Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
EDWARDS	✓				GONZALEZ	✓				FRISBY	✓			
FELICIANO	✓				HARRISON	✓								
FIGUEROA KETTENBURG	✓				WILLIAMS	✓								

MAR 09 2023

This Resolution was adopted at a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Trenton on

President of Council

City Clerk

PROSECUTORIAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS CONTRACT is made as of the **1st day of January 2023**, by and between the City of Trenton, a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as the "City" and **Cristina L. Vazquez, Esquire**, with principal offices located at **401 Kings Highway South, Ste. 2B, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034** hereinafter referred to as the "Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor."

WHEREAS, the City maintains a present and anticipated need for persons to serve as independent contractors to represent it in the Trenton Municipal Court as an Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, the City issued Request for Proposals **RFP2022-47** (the "RFP"), which is incorporated herein by reference, seeking law firms and or individuals to provide **Prosecutorial Services** for the City (hereinafter, the "Legal Services"); and

WHEREAS, the Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor agrees to perform such services, under the terms and conditions set forth herein with the City being agreeable thereto; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Trenton authorized the award of this contract pursuant to Resolution No. **23-084** attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference (the "Resolution"), for a total contract amount not to exceed **\$14,000.00** and;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties mutually agree as follows:

1. Scope of Services: The City agrees to retain the Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor and the Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor hereby agrees to provide prosecutorial legal services at the request of and under the general supervision of the Chief Municipal Prosecutor, in accordance with the rules governing the prosecution of cases in the City of Trenton and State of New Jersey. The Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor shall be responsible for performing all reasonable and necessary tasks related to such services.

2. Manner of Performance: The Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor warrants that the representations made by it regarding the ability and skill level to carry out these services are true. The Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor further warrants that all services provided hereunder shall be performed in a first-rate, professional and decent manner, in conformity with the responsibilities, demands, and ethics of the legal profession and otherwise to the satisfaction of the Chief Municipal Prosecutor and the City Attorney.

3. Work Assignments: The Chief Municipal Prosecutor shall be responsible for delegating work assignments and establishing the schedule for prosecutorial work in the Trenton Municipal Court and shall contact the Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor with work assignments on an as needed basis.

4. Term: This agreement shall remain in full force and effect for the period of **January 1, 2023, through February 28, 2023**, as set forth in the Resolution, unless sooner terminated pursuant to the provisions hereof. In no event shall the term of this Contract be extended without action by the governing body of the City to extend the term.

5. Compensation: (a) All work performed by the Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor pursuant to the terms hereof shall be billed at the rate of \$215.00 per court session and \$300.00 per prep session per day. A session is generally estimated to last up to four (4) working hours. The Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor shall submit itemized monthly bills not later than the 10th of each month and shall complete and execute any documents as the City may require for payment. Failure to comply with this section may result in removal from the schedule or termination of this Contract pursuant to Section 9 hereof.

(b) In no event during the term of this Contract shall the Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor's billings exceed the amount set forth in the Resolution without action by the governing body to increase the contract amount. In the event the Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor anticipates exceeding the aforesaid contract amount, prior notice shall be given to the City Attorney of the approximate billing cycle in which the contract amount is expected to be exhausted. Initial [initials]

6. Status of contractor: It is expressly understood by and between the parties hereto that the status of the Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor retained to carry out the services set forth in this agreement is that of an Independent contractor. It is further understood by and between the parties that it is not intended, nor shall it be construed, that the Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor is an agent, employee, or officer of the City of Trenton.

7. Notices: Any notices required to be delivered to either party pursuant to this Contract shall be sent in writing to their respective addresses listed above. The parties shall be responsible for notifying each other of any change of address.

8. Indemnification. The Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the City harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage, or expense, including attorney's fees, which may be incurred or sustained by reason of the Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor's willful misconduct or negligence in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Contract.

9. Termination: (a) This Contract may be terminated by either party upon ten (10) days prior written notice to the other party in the event of substantial failure by the other party to fulfill its obligations under this Contract through no fault of the terminating party.

(b) This Contract may be terminated by the City without cause upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Independent Contractor/Municipal Prosecutor. The parties shall deal with each other in good faith during the thirty (30) day period after any notice of intent to terminate without cause is given.

10. Assignment: This Contract may not be assigned or transferred by either party without the prior written consent of the other party.

11. Amendment: This Contract may not be amended or modified except by written agreement signed by both parties, and action by the governing body of the City, where required.

12. Nondiscrimination: The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this nondiscrimination clause;

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative or workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this act and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with the regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to attempt in good faith to employ minority and female workers consistent with the applicable county employment goals prescribed by NJAC 17:27-5.2 promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time or in accordance with a binding determination of the applicable county employment goals determined by the Affirmative Action Office pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2 promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to inform in writing appropriate recruitment agencies in the area, including employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, labor unions that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job-related testing.

as established by the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey and as established by applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and layoff to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation, and conform with the applicable employment goals, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

The contractor and its subcontractors shall furnish such reports or other documents to the Affirmative Action Office as may be requested by the office from time to time in order to carry out the purposes of these regulations, and public agencies shall furnish such information as may be requested by the Affirmative Action Office for conducting a compliance investigation pursuant to Subchapter 10 of the Administrative Code (NJAC 17:27).

13. Integration: This Contract constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and any representations that may have been made prior to the execution of this Contract are nonbonding, void, and of no effect and neither party has relied on any such prior representations in entering into this Contract.

14. Enforceability: If any term or condition of this Contract or its application to any party or circumstance shall be deemed invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the Contract and its application to other parties and circumstances shall not be affected.

15. Governing Law: This Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Jersey.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Attest:

Title:

CITY OF TRENTON

By:

W. REED GUSCIORA, MAYOR

Witness:

CRISTINA L. VAZQUEZ, ESQ.

By:

J Guadalupe Medina Ramos
Notary Public of State of New Jersey
Commission Expires 10-14-2024
Commission No. 2450371