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TO: The Honorable
Board of Water Commissioners
City of Detroit, Michigan

FROM: Marqaicha Welch, Procurement Manager

RE: DWSD RFB WS-723 Response to Bid Protest from Inner City Contracting dated 4/12/22

DATE: May 2, 2022

DWSD Procurement received a bid protest regarding Request For Bids (RFB) #WS-723 for Lead Service Line Replacements in Detroit on 4/12/22.

Inner City's bid was reviewed by DWSD Procurement as the apparent equalized low bidder for RFB WS-723. It was determined for various reasons to be a non-responsive bid, in that all required documentation and information was not included in their submitted bid.

In addition, DWSD Engineering was asked to verify the findings by the Procurement Department to ensure there was not an error in the evaluation process and Engineering agrees with the Procurement Department's findings.

Prior Experience of the Bidder's Firm, Inner City Contracting:

Upon further examination of Inner City's bid, it was determined that they did in fact submit a list of at least 3 projects with minimal details provided; however, not all information required in Schedule A - Experience Form was included, as the Bidder did not complete the DWSD Form specific to this information.

Prior Experience of Bidder's Assigned Key Personnel:

Upon further exam of the resumes, the bidder did not satisfy Minimum Qualifications: Project Manager, Project Superintendent, Safety Manager, and Quality Control Manager must have the minimum experience of three (3) similar projects in their respective roles, as listed in Schedule B under Section C-451.

The resumes submitted only list job titles (current and past), with a short description and did not clearly identify the Project Manager, the Quality Control Manager or the Safety Manager (only Superintendent position was clearly identified). In addition, the resumes only listed titles of current and prior roles, with the date range but did not list any projects, similar or otherwise, showing they have worked on three (3) similar projects in their respective roles. Identification of Key Personnel failed to reveal they acted in capacity on 3 projects in each of the four (4) roles, as required in Schedule B – Key Personnel.

It is mandated by State Law that the lead service lines be replaced as it critical to the health and safety of Detroiters. Therefore, it is vital that bids contain information relating to a firm's experience and that of the key personnel being assigned to that project.

Summary

Project WS-723 for the replacement of lead service lines in Detroit is required due to the State of Michigan mandate requiring the replacements due to the critical nature of the health and safety of Detroit residents. Therefore, it is imperative that the contractor awarded must be able to show their firm and their assigned key personnel possess and submit the required evidence showing they have the experience and skills to successfully perform the contract.

Therefore, DWSD Procurement and Engineering/Construction Departments request the Board of Water Commissioners to reject Inner City's bid protest.

MW/kf

cc: Gary A Brown, Director
Samuel Smalley, Chief Operations Officer
Debra N. Pospiech, Esq., Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel