



Agenda Report

November 8, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Finance Committee

FROM: Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: PURCHASE ORDER TO MERIDIAN DEFENSE GROUP FOR ARCHER ANTI-VEHICLE BARRIERS NOT TO EXCEED \$249,244

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3), Review for Exemption; and
2. Authorize a purchase order, without competitive bidding pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(F), contracts for labor, material, supplies, or services available from only one vendor, with Meridian Rapid Defense Group for 34 Archer Anti-Vehicle Barriers and 2 haulers for an amount not to exceed \$249,244; and
3. It is further recommended that the City Council grant the proposed purchase and exemption from the competitive selection process pursuant to PMC section 4.08.049(B), contracts for which the City's best interests are served; and
4. Amend the Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget by appropriating \$249,244 for the purchase order with Meridian Defense Group.

BACKGROUND:

In response to the State of California Stay at Home order, City staff was tasked with supporting local restaurants by repurposing the public right of way for outdoor dining purposes. City staff created guidelines and an application process to allow businesses to use sidewalks, alleys, and city streets (on-street dining and parklets) for dining purposes.

As part of the initial on-street dining installation, the Department of Transportation issued a purchase order to Meridian Rapid Defense Group for the rental of the Archer anti-vehicle barriers to be part of the on-street dining closures. The Archer is a safety component that has been required by the City of Pasadena for special event street closures and for on-street dining without adjacent parking. The Department of Transportation does not recommend that the on-street dining areas operate without the inclusion of some type of the anti-vehicle barriers. The Meridian Archers are designed to withstand head on impacts from a vehicle, therefore adding an additional layer of protection for the on-street dining areas. At the time of initial installation, the decision to rent the Meridians versus purchasing was based on the number of Meridians that the City was using at the time, the quoted cost over \$500k, and DOT staff wanted to explore other less expensive but just as effective options. We are nearing the end of the identified budget for the rental period and based on staff research and what seems to be a more permanent on-street dining program, we are now at the point where renting no longer makes sense and are recommending purchasing.

Since initial installation, DOT staff conducted online research to find a product similar to the Meridian Archer that would provide the same safety from vehicle impacts, ease of mobility, and aesthetics. Some products provide similar anti-vehicle capabilities, but require multiple units to be attached to one another and requires more additional resources to assemble the barrier. The Archer units are fully assembled when delivered. The Archer can be easily repositioned by one person with the use of the Archer hauler. Staff considered using concrete K-rails installed at an angle to the direction of vehicular traffic, but determined that this option does not provide the same level of protection as K-rail and is not designed for head-on side impacts. In the event that the on-street dining area is no longer required, the Archers can be used to supplement barriers that are rented for events such as the Rose Parade. This device has been approved for use by the Pasadena Police Department to protect vehicles from entering secured areas.

Meridian Rapid Defense Group is a local Pasadena business. Meridian Rapid Defense Group is the sole manufacturer of the U.S. and internationally patented Archer 1200 anti-vehicle barrier; as well as the supporting product, the Archer Hauler. The Archer 1200 and hauler have been approved and designated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under the Safety Act as Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technology. It is in the City's best interest to award the purchase order to Meridian Rapid Defense Group.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's strategic planning goal to maintain fiscal responsibility and stability and to promote quality of life and the local economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed purchase order with Meridian Defense Group is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3), Review for Exemption.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of this action will be \$249,244 (account 10124003-811400). Given the loss of General Fund revenue associated with waiving occupancy fees for outdoor dining in the public right-of-way, the cost of the barriers will be supported by the first installment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding authorized by City Council on August 16, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



LAURA RUBIO-CORNEJO
Director
Department of Transportation

Prepared by:



Alberto Felix, T.E.
Engineer

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager