

Agenda Report

October 4, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Police Department

SUBJECT: PURCHASE ORDER CONTRACT TO MERIDIAN RAPID DEFENSE GROUP, LLC FOR ANTI-TERRORISM VEHICLE BARRIERS NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$82,952

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the project proposed herein is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3), the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment;
2. Authorize a purchase order contract with Meridian Rapid Defense Group, LLC (DBA Meridian Rental Group) for 8 Anti-Terrorism Vehicle Barriers, trailer, and a hauler for an amount not to exceed \$82,952. Competitive Bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(C), contracts for labor, material, supplies, or services available from only one vendor; and
3. It is further recommended that the City Council grant the proposed purchase an exemption from the competitive selection process pursuant to PMC section 4.08.049(B), contracts for which the city's best interests are served.

BACKGROUND:

From time to time, the Police Department needs to provide closure to public streets and city venues from vehicular traffic. Closures for vehicular traffic require solid barriers able to stop vehicles from driving through. Commonly used water barriers do not stop vehicles from driving through a closure and can be easily manipulated to allow multiple vehicles to drive past the closure into the secured area. In 2018 and 2019, the Police Department utilized Archer Anti-Terrorism Vehicle Barriers to secure the Rose Parade route after learning of the inadequate security the water barriers provided. In 2020, the Police Department submitted a request through the UASI grant program for a trailer of Archer 1200 Anti-Vehicle Barriers. On September 1, 2021, the Police Department was

awarded a grant in the amount of \$83,531 for the purchase of a trailer of Archer 1200 Anti-Vehicle Barriers.

Meridian Rapid Defense Group, LLC is the sole manufacturer of the U.S. and internationally patented and trademarked Archer 1200 Anti-Terrorism Vehicle Barrier; as well as the attendant supporting technologies and products which include the Archer Field Tow Bar and Archer Hauler. The Archer 1200 Barriers, Field Tow Bar and Hauler have been approved and designated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under the Safety Act as Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technology (QATT). The Act, provides legal liability protections to Meridian, its customers and end users of the designated QATT products. Meridian Rapid Defense Group, LLC is a Pasadena based business.

Online research has been conducted in an attempt to find similar barriers that provide the mobility, vehicle stopping power and the DHS designation under the Safety Act as a Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technology protection. No other companies were found that provide a device that meets these qualifications. Vehicle mitigation strategies are a necessity as vehicle assaults are one of the primary forms of attack at large events and gatherings by Home Grown Violent Extremists (HGVE) and/or terrorists. It is in the city's best interest to award the purchase order to Meridian Rapid Defense Group, LLC as the barriers will mitigate any potential HGVE attacks and other vehicle incursions into secure areas.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's Strategic Plan Goals to ensure public safety and maintain fiscal responsibility and stability.


ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed contract has been determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Such is the case with the proposed purchase order with a traffic services company for Anti-Terrorism Vehicle Barriers. No physical changes to the environment will result from the proposed contract authorization.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of this action is \$82,952. Funding for this action will be addressed through the use of the UASI grant awarded to the Police Department (23033001-810900-91241).

Respectfully submitted,


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