

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** MARCH 13, 2000

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FOR PUBLIC ACCESS IN PASADENA'S LIBRARIES.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve a journal voucher recognizing \$129,767.65 in grant funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and appropriating it to account 7050-212-600000.
2. Authorize the Purchasing Administrator to issue purchase orders to Gateway, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$183,066 for the purchase of personal computers and related equipment to support public access computing in Pasadena's libraries.
3. Grant these contracts partial exemption (vendor outreach only) from the Affirmative Action in Contracting Ordinance pursuant to P.M.C. 4.09.060 (C) contracts for which the City's best interests are served. The proposed purchases are exempt from competitive bidding, pursuant to City Charter section 1002 (C), contracts for labor, material, supplies or services available from only one vendor.

BACKGROUND

The Pasadena Public Library recently submitted a grant application to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as part of the California phase of the Gates Library Initiative. The Gates Library Initiative is designed to fund and support the deployment of public access computing resources in public libraries throughout North America in an effort to bridge the "digital divide" that separates those who have access to the power of technology and the Internet and those who do not. Eligibility for Gates Library Initiative grants is based on an analysis of the poverty threshold in a three-mile radius surrounding individual public library facilities. When that analysis shows a poverty threshold of at least 10%, based on 1990 U.S. Census Department data, then that facility is entitled to receive grant funding for a package of personal computers, software, wiring, along with installation, training and technical support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In the case of Pasadena there are a total of five library facilities (Central Library, Hill Avenue, La Pintoresca, Santa Catalina, and Villa Parke) that are situated in areas where the surrounding community meets the established criteria and are thus eligible to receive grant support. In addition, because Pasadena's total service population exceeds 100,000 it also meets the eligibility requirements for a supplemental training lab grant which will establish a state-of-the-art training facility at the Central Library equipped with ten personal computers that can be used for ongoing public and staff training programs.

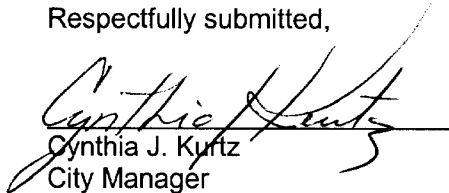
On December 17, 1999 staff received word from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that the grant applications had been approved in the amount of \$129,767.65. Although these grant funds are restricted to being used in support of the five library facilities listed above, staff is committed to deploying identical equipment at the remaining library facilities. Toward that end a total of \$53,298.26 from the FY-2000 phase of the department's previously approved Public Technology Plan has been allocated to fund the deployment of equipment at the remaining five library facilities (Allendale, Hastings, Lamanda Park, Linda Vista, and San Rafael).

While the grant agreement does allow for the City to select its own hardware vendor for the project, there are compelling reasons why staff is recommending that it would be in the City's best interest to purchase the equipment from Gateway, Inc. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has established an agreement with Gateway, Inc. under which it acts as the sole distributor of hardware and software for the Gates Library Initiative and provides very competitive pricing to grant recipients. Under the agreement Gateway pre-loads software titles, donated by Microsoft, Corbis and The Learning Company, onto hardware platforms that have been tested and certified by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's technical staff. The package of educational, reference and productivity software titles has a retail value in excess of \$125,000 and is only available to the City on the pre-configured equipment purchased through Gateway, Inc.

FISCAL IMPACT

Sufficient funds are available to support the purchases outlined in this report within the accounts of the Department of Information Services. Primary funding will come from the \$129,767.65 cash grant received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and appropriated to account 7050-212-600000. Supplemental funding in the amount of \$53,298.26 will be drawn from account 8506-212-604000 (Computer Equipment).


Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Prepared by:


Bryan W. Sands
Information Technology Manager

Approved by:


Luis Herrera
Director of Information Services