



CITY OF HOUSTON - CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date:

ALL

Item Creation Date: 7/26/2022

E32454 - William Marsh Rice Wastewater Testing - ORDINANCE

Agenda Item#:

Summary:

NOT A REAL CAPTION

ORDINANCE awarding a professional services agreement to **WILLIAM MARSH RICE UNIVERSITY** for COVID-19 wastewater testing services for the Houston Health Department - \$2,317,562.00 - Grant Fund

Background:

Professional Services (S38-E32454) - Approve an ordinance awarding a professional services agreement to William Marsh Rice University in the amount not to exceed \$2,317,562.00 for COVID-19, influenza A and B and Monkeypox wastewater testing services for the Houston Health Department.

Specific Explanation:

The Director of the Houston Health Department and the Interim Chief Procurement Officer recommend that City Council approve an ordinance awarding a professional services agreement in the amount not to exceed **\$2,317,562.00** between the City of Houston and **William Marsh Rice University** for COVID-19, influenza A and B and monkeypox wastewater testing services. This Agreement is effective on Countersignature Date, and shall remain in effect **until May 31, 2024** ("Initial Term"), unless sooner terminated under the provisions of this Agreement.

COVID-19 goes undetected in a large percentage of the population because many people are asymptomatic or experience only mild symptoms. Undiagnosed, infected individuals are contagious and play a role in the rapid transmission of the virus. Confirmed clinical cases of COVID-19 are a significant underestimate of the total number of COVID-19 cases, particularly in areas with limited testing capabilities. Wastewater surveillance represents an additional tool to monitor COVID-19 infection dynamics at a community scale to inform the allocation of healthcare resources and social distancing policies. We will leverage the existing SARS-CoV-2 wastewater monitoring program implemented in Houston and expand to monitor for the COVID, monkeypox virus and analyzing schools for influenzas A and B. This will help inform public health response by tracking citywide levels and identify COVID and monkeypox in neighborhoods and facilities with high-risk populations and will help inform public health response at schools and understand and disentangle infections of influenza and SARS-Cov-2 in school environments.

In collaboration with Houston Health and Houston Water, Rice University will collect, process, and analyze samples to perform SARS-CoV-2 wastewater surveillance to provide insight into the presence of COVID-19, influenza A and B and monkeypox including variants, in Houston's communities.

This recommendation is made pursuant to subsection 252.022(a)(4) of the Texas Local Government Code, which provides that " a procurement for personal, professional, or planning services" is exempt from the competitive requirements for purchases.

M/WBE Participation:

Zero-percent goal documentation approved by the Office of Business Opportunity

Hire Houston First:

This procurement is exempt from the City's Hire Houston First ordinance. It does not apply to this procurement, because it involves the use of federal funds and is subject to specific procurement rules of the federal government.

Fiscal Note:

No Fiscal Note is required on grant items.

DocuSigned by:

Jedediah Greenfield,
Interim Chief Procurement Officer
Finance/Strategic Procurement Division

DocuSigned by:

Stephen L. Williams, M.Ed., M.P.A
Director - Houston Health Department

Estimated Spending Authority

Department	FY23	Outyears	Total
Houston Health Department	\$2,317,562.00	\$0	\$2,317,562.00

Amount and Source of Funding:

\$1,706,562.00

Federal Government - Grant Funded
Fund 5000

\$500,000.00

General Fund
Fund 1000

\$111,000.00

Federal Government
Fund 5000

Total Federal Grant funds and General fund - \$2,317,562.00

Contact Information:

Wayne Kelley 832-393-4714

Porfirio Villarreal 832-393-5041

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
Agreement	Contract/Exhibit
Ownership Forms	Backup Material
MWBE Goal Waiver	Backup Material
Professional Service Justification	Backup Material
RCA Budget Form	Backup Material
Tax Report	Backup Material
COI Approval	Backup Material
CPO Approval	Backup Material
Program Justification	Backup Material
Certification of Funds	Backup Material
Scope of Work	Backup Material