

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

-MEMORANDUM-

TO: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Commission

Date: November 14, 2024

FROM: Amos Rojas, Jr.
City Manager

SUBJECT: Award Recommendation
RFQ 2024-008 Assessment and Design
Services for the City Hall Restoration and
Renovation

At the next available City Commission Meeting an award recommendation for RFQ 2024-008 Assessment and Design Services for the City Hall Restoration and Renovation will be included on the agenda. This memorandum serves to notify you that in accordance with Section 2-763 of the City Code entitled "Contract Award", my recommendation to the City Commission for the award of the subject RFQ is as follows:

- 1) Accept the recommendation of the Chief Procurement Officer to award the RFQ and authorize negotiations R.J. Heisenbottle Architects, P.A., the highest ranked responsive and responsible proposer.
- 2) Should negotiations fail with the top-ranked proposer, negotiations may commence with the next highest ranked responsive-responsible proposer Gurri Matute, if determined to be in the best interest of the city, until a satisfactory agreement and contract amount that is fair, competitive, and reasonable is reached.
- 3) Reaffirm the City's right to pursue alternative courses of action.

On July 19, 2024, the Procurement Division of Finance formally advertised, issued, and distributed Assessment and Design Services for the City Hall Restoration and Renovation, Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2024-008. One hundred twelve (112) prospective proposers were notified of the RFQ package from INFOR, the City's web-based e-procurement system.

On September 6, 2024, five (5) firms responded in response to the RFQ: Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, LLP, Gurri Matute, R.E. Chisholm Architects, Inc., R.J. Heisenbottle Architects, P.A., Thorton Tomasetti, Inc.

The responses were reviewed by the Procurement Division in order to determine responsiveness to the requirements of the RFQ. During the review, it was determined by Procurement, after consulting with the City Attorney's Office, that Beyer Blinder Belle, Architects and Planners, LLP, was deemed non-responsive based on failure to meet the minimum qualification requirement of being a licensed architectural firm in the state of Florida as required by Section 3.A.3 of the RFQ; Thorton Tomasetti, Inc. was deemed non-responsive based on failure to meet the minimum qualification requirement of providing references to include restoration of buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places as required by Section 3.A.2 of the RFQ, failure to meet the minimum qualification requirement of being a licensed architectural firm in the state of Florida as required by Section 3.A.3 of the RFQ, and failure to meet the minimum qualification requirement that the proposer's project manager be a licensed Architect with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation in the State of Florida with a minimum of five (5) years of documented

experience with historical sites and buildings as per Section 3.B.1 of the RFQ; and R.E. Chisholm Architects, P.A. was deemed non-responsive based on failure to meet the minimum qualification requirement of providing a minimum of references of three (3) completed historic restoration and renovation projects satisfactorily performed in the last fifteen (15) years as required by Section 3.A.2 of the RFQ

On November 6, 2024, the Evaluation Committee convened to evaluate the two (2) responsive and responsible proposals and ranked the firms in the following order of preference: R.J. Heisenbottle Architects, P.A. (first ranked), and Gurri Matute (second ranked). The Evaluation Committee determined that R.J. Heisenbottle Architects, P.A., was the highest ranked responsive-responsible proposer to provide the requested services.

The Evaluation Committee further recommended that should negotiations fail with R.J. Heisenbottle Architects, P.A., negotiations could be conducted with the next ranked firm, Gurri Matute.

After successful negotiations, a Professional Services Agreement will be executed. A more detailed description of the RFQ, proposal response and evaluation results will be provided to you as part of the agenda package.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Copy:

Cristina M. Suárez, City Attorney

Billy Y. Urquia, City Clerk

Alberto N. Parjus, Deputy City Manager

Jose Gomez, Assistant City Manager

Hermes Diaz, Public Works Director

Diana M. Gomez, Finance Director

Celeste S. Walker-Harmon, Chief Procurement Officer