



City of Coral Gables  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING

**ITEM TITLE:**

**Resolution.:** A Resolution of the City Commission accepting the recommendation of the Innovation and Technology Director to waive the competitive bid process of the Procurement Code as a Special Procurement/Bid Waiver for Unitec Inc., to provide fiber optic construction services for the Phase 5 broadband expansion project, pursuant to Section 2-691 of the City's Procurement Code.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval.

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

In October 2022, the City awarded the Fiber Optic Backbone Expansion Project (Phases 1-4) to Unitec, Inc., the lowest responsive/responsible bidder, IFB 2022-015, Resolution No. 2022-257.

Fiber expansion construction kicked off in November 2022, and all the four fiber corridor Phases were completed one year ahead of time, on budget, with high quality and excellent contractor performance and responsiveness to project needs as well as emergencies and repairs.

Unitec Inc. provided a professional and responsible team of highly qualified/experienced engineers and technicians who worked very well with City teams (IT, PW, DS, FD) and gained intricate knowledge of our City's technology and telecommunications infrastructure, construction codes, permitting requirements, and processes. The company provided a very competitive cost for the completed phases 1-4, saving costs to the City and leaving enough funds available in the CIP for Phase 5 corridors on South Ponce and US-1.

Besides our City, Unitec Inc. has also been awarded by other municipalities in Florida for similar fiber optic construction projects (e.g.: City of Coral Springs, City of Tamarac, City of Pembroke Pines).

The Innovation & Technology department presented the successful completion of Phases 1-4 and the plan for the new Phases 5-6 at City Commission meeting on July 2025.

The Innovation & Technology department recommends continuing using this contractor to build the next phase 5 of the Fiber backbone expansion project, which will lower risk and complexity and will save time and costs to our City. The contractor has agreed to provide the services at competitive price that is aligned with the costs associated with the earlier phases of the project.

This project is part of IT Strategic Action Plan 4.1-3 "Smart and Connected Districts" and is already funded under the IT Wi-Fi broadband infrastructure Capital Improvement Project. Preliminary plan map is attached for illustration purposes.

Approval of the bid waiver will allow for the continuation of fiber construction services for phase 5 of the City's fiber broadband expansion project (South Ponce and US-1 corridors), which will address time-sensitive public safety and connectivity needs at the Ponce/Bird Rd/US-1 corridors, bringing resilient and secure city-owned high-speed communications to critical facilities and intersections such as: Fire Station

2, Backup 911 PSAP, Trolley Depot, Passport Office, and sensitive intersections (Bird Rd, LeJeune, Douglas Rd, Red Rd, Grand Ave, Granada, and others.)

Section 2-691 of the Procurement Code entitled “Special Procurement/Bid Waiver” authorizes the Chief Procurement Officer to initiate a special procurement/bid waiver when an unusual or unique situation exists that makes the application of all requirements of competitive sealed bidding or competitive sealed proposal contrary to the public interest.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Account No.</b>	<b>Source of Funds</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>\$ 1,314,000</b>	<b>1-10-3210-519-6405</b>	<b>SMART CITY TECH P1 – GCI</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,314,000</b>		

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- 1. Resolution**