

AUDITS & GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY MOTION

The Controller's review of the contracting process of various City departments released June 12, 2006 raised serious questions about the adequacy of the City's contracting guidelines, oversight and transparency directly impacting millions in professional/personal services contracts awarded annually.

Although the Controller's letter cited a number of internal checks and balances including comprehensive guidelines for purchasing and construction contracts, there were also specific examples of contracting misconduct reported including circumvention of City contracting guidelines used to hire contractors. The latter example suggests that additional steps must be taken to evaluate the sufficiency of existing controls, policies and practices in protecting the interests of the City and its citizens.

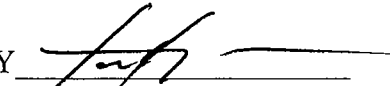
Based on the Controller's recommendations it is not clear that the full scope and magnitude of the problems with the City's contracting practices and procedures have been identified. Accordingly, it is abundantly clear that a more comprehensive review of the City's contracting practices and processes is warranted to improve the transparency and overall effectiveness of contracting and procurement practices citywide.

I THEREFORE MOVE that, the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Controller, be instructed to conduct a comprehensive review of the contracting guidelines, oversight and controls currently being employed by the City's Contracts Administration and/or Contracts Compliance groups in relation to Council controlled departments to improve the transparency and overall effectiveness of the City's contracting process and report back to the Audits and Governmental Efficiency Committee within thirty days; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the CLA and CAO be prepared to offer proposed modifications to the City Charter and/or Administrative Code based on the results of their evaluation including but not limited to establishment of a Centralized Oversight Unit to provide expert contracting advice to improve transparency, simplify the process, and ensure consistency for all City contracts requiring Council review and approval; and

I FURTHER MOVE that, the City Attorney be instructed to draft an ordinance modifying the Charter and/or Administrative Code as required based on the CLA and CAO recommendations.

PRESENTED BY


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14TH District

SECONDED BY



6/14/2006

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