



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2859, **Agenda Item #:** 47.

9/21/2023

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract for sexual assault advocate case review services with End Violence Against Women International in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

[Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9D Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established].

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Management Services Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget of the Management Services Department.

Purchasing Language:

Professional Service.

For More Information:

Direct questions regarding this Recommendation for Council Action to the Financial Services Department - Central Procurement at: FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov or [512-974-2500](mailto:FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov).

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide sexual assault advocate case reviews of the Austin Police Department's (APD) sexual assault cases opened from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022. In September 2019, the City contracted the Police Executive Research Forum, in conjunction with the Women's Law Project and the Wellesley Centers for Women, to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the investigation and processing of sexual assaults reported to APD. The report recommended APD conduct a confidential review of randomly selected sexual assault cases on an annual basis. An annual case review provides on-going insight into the investigation and processing of sexual assault cases and establishes cultural expectations for continuous improvement.

Case reviews are to be conducted on cases that meet the following criteria: closed cases, felony cases, and cases of survivors 18 years of age and older. Case reviews are to be conducted on no less than 20% of the annual average of cases over the two-year period and are expected to involve local community advocates. The reviews will focus on the thoroughness of investigations, the proper coding of crimes, whether the investigations reached appropriate outcomes, and the elimination of bias.

End Violence Against Women International (EVAW) has been deemed qualified to provide these services based on demonstrated experience and expertise in the investigation and prosecution of adult sexual assault in the United States. EVAW will produce a final report that includes the collection, review, and analysis of available information and stakeholder interviews. This report is expected to be released to the public.

This is a new contract that must be executed before October 1, 2023, to allow adequate funding of services.