

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Eliminating Streamlined Contracting for Homeless Services]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to require Public Works to adhere to the Environment Code and provisions requiring competitive bidding, equal benefits, local business enterprise utilization, and other requirements for construction work and professional and other services relating to projects addressing homelessness; and requiring the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to engage in competitive bidding for professional and other services relating to sites and programs for people experiencing homelessness.

Existing Law

Local Law generally requires City departments to use a competitive bidding process and follow other contracting requirements for professional services and other commodities, and construction contracts, subject to exceptions. However, since 2018, local law has established a streamlined contracting process for homeless services.

Under existing law, the Departments of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (“HSH”) and Public Works may enter into and amend contracts and grants for professional or other services and commodities relating to projects addressing homelessness without using a competitive bidding process. For purposes of this authority, “projects addressing homelessness” are projects designed to prevent homelessness through the provision of housing subsidies or other services, and projects designed to provide shelter, housing, food, and/or social services to people experiencing homelessness.

Under existing law, the Department of Public Works may enter into or amend contracts for public works and improvements without using a competitive bidding process, and without adherence to the Environment Code and Administrative Code Chapters 12B and 14B, provided the contracts are for public works or improvements for the construction, repair, or improvement of one or more sites that will be used for the primary purpose of providing housing, shelter, or services to people experiencing homelessness.

The authority to enter into and amend contracts without competitive bidding and adherence to specified codes is scheduled to expire in April 2024, or on the effective date of an ordinance making a finding that according to the most recent Point in Time Homeless Count, there are fewer than 5,250 homeless persons in San Francisco, whichever date is earlier.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would eliminate the streamlined contracting process for agreements relating to projects addressing homelessness, and would require HSH and Public Works to

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use a competitive bidding process and follow other contracting requirements for the procurement of personal and other services, commodities, and public works and improvements for projects addressing homelessness.

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