



City of Phoenix

Finance Department

Procurement Division

Solicitation Transparency Policy (City Code, 43-36)

Commencing on the date and time a solicitation is published, potential or actual offerors or respondents (including their representatives) shall only discuss matters associated with the solicitation with the Mayor, any members of City Council, the City Manager, any Deputy City Manager, or any department director directly associated with the solicitation (including in each case their assigned staff, except for the designated Procurement Officer) at a public meeting, posted under Arizona Statutes, until the resulting contract(s) are awarded or all offers or responses are rejected and the solicitation is cancelled without any announcement by the Procurement Officer of the City's intent to reissue the same or a similar solicitation.

- A. As long as the solicitation is not discussed, Offerors may continue to conduct business with the City and discuss business that is unrelated to the solicitation with the City staff. Offerors may not discuss the solicitation with any City employees or panel members.
- B. Offerors may discuss their Offer or the solicitation with the Mayor or one or more members of the Phoenix City Council, provided such meetings are scheduled through the Procurement Officer, and are posted as open meetings with the City Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meetings. The City Clerk will be responsible for posting the meetings. The posted notice shall identify the participants and the subject matter, as well as invite the public to participate.
- C. With respect to the selection of the successful Offerors, the City Manager and/or City Manager's Office will continue the past practice of exerting no undue influence on the process. In all solicitations of bids and Offers, any direction on the selection from the City Manager and/or City Manager's Office and Department Head (or representative) to the Offer review panel or selecting authority must be provided in writing to all prospective Offerors.
- D. This policy is intended to create a level playing field for all Offerors, assure that contracts are awarded in public, and protect the integrity of the selection process. **OFFERORS THAT VIOLATE THIS POLICY SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED.** After official Notice is received by the City for disqualification, the Offeror may follow the Protest process, unless the Solicitation is cancelled without notice of intent to re-issue.
- E. "To discuss" means any contact by the Offeror, regardless of whether the City responds to the contact. Offerors that violate this policy shall be disqualified until the resulting contract(s) are awarded, or all Offers or responses are rejected and the solicitation is cancelled without any announcement by the Procurement Officer of the City's intent to reissue the same or a similar solicitation. The City interprets the policy as continuing through a cancellation of a solicitation until Council award of the contract, as long as the City cancels with a statement that the City will rebid the solicitation.