

RESOLUTION NO. _____

APPROVAL OF PARKWAY PLACE BROADBAND SERVICES

Item No. 5c

WHEREAS, Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) is committed to bridging the digital divide among its residents; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has further revealed the extent of the digital divide in public housing; and

WHEREAS, Parkway Place, LMHA's remaining traditional family public housing development, has the density that makes providing broadband internet to all households feasible; and

WHEREAS, LMHA staff prepared a Request for Proposals to provide broadband internet services to all Parkway Place apartments and posted the proposal on the Housing Agency Marketplace on June 3, 2020 with advertisements ran in the Courier-Journal and Louisville Defender that same week. Two responses were received, but both were deemed technically non-responsive. The RFP was reposted on September 10, 2020 and readvertised. Again, two responses were received; and

WHEREAS, a panel of staff reviewed the two proposals and determined that Spectrum Community Solutions was the most responsive to the criteria outlined in the request and the review panel recommends award contracts to Spectrum Community Solutions dba Spectrum Mid-America, LLC (Spectrum) in the amount not to exceed \$268,600 for Parkway Place broadband.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISVILLE METRO HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that the Executive Director and Contracting Officer, Lisa Osanka, is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with Spectrum in the amount of \$268,600.00 for one year with one, one-year renewal.

RESOLUTION BACKGROUND STATEMENT

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I. STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed inequities surrounding the digital divide, especially in the ability to conduct Nontraditional Instruction for school aged children and to work remotely. Currently Parkway Place houses 457 school aged children and 553 working aged adults.

The Request for Proposals was advertised on September 2, 2020 in the Courier Journal and on September 3, 2020 in the Louisville Defender. It was also posted on LMHA's website and the Housing Agency Marketplace (e-Procurement), reaching 400 companies that we can confirm received an "invitation for bids," with the MBE/FBE/DBE breakdown as follows:

African-American Business Enterprise: 65 (16%)
Asian Indian-American Business Enterprise: 18 (4%)
Asian Pacific-American Business Enterprise: 11 (3%)
Hassidic Jew-American Business Enterprise: 1 (0%)
Hispanic-American Business Enterprise: 42 (10%)
Native American Business Enterprise: 8 (2%)
None (not Woman- or Minority-owned): 203 (51%)
Qualified Disabled Veteran Owned: 6 (1%)
Woman-owned Business Enterprise: 103 (26%)
Section 3 Business: 12 (3%)

From the 400 companies represented above, a total of 9 companies downloaded and reviewed the RFP for Parkway Place Broadband Services and are as follows:

African-American Business Enterprise: 1 (11%)
Native American Business Enterprise: 1 (11%)
None (not Woman- or Minority-owned): 7 (78%)

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I. STATEMENT OF FACTS (cont'd):

The bid opening date was September 22, 2020. Two responses to the RFP were received as follows:

<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>TWO-YEAR AMOUNT</u>
The Digital Decision	\$1,414,241.00
Spectrum Community Solutions	\$505,058.00

In addition to the fees which were worth up to 75 out of 100 points, the responses were also evaluated internet speed (25 points). Spectrum offered 200 megabytes per second and The Digital Decision offered 100 MB per second.

The total scores:

<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>TOTAL SCORE</u>
The Digital Decision	38.73
Spectrum Community Solutions	100

The MBE participation goal is 25%, the WBE is 10% and the DBE is .5%. Spectrum will be completing all the work associated with the bid specification within the organization except for the cabling, which will be completed by a WBE (18%) company. The contractor received a waiver for 25% MBE and .5% DBE and therefore, is in compliance with the MBE, WBE and DBE program policy. The Procurement Committee has discussed this project and recommends award of the contract to Spectrum Community Solutions in the amount of \$268,600 with one, one-year renewal.

II. ALTERNATIVES:

- A. Approve a contract with Spectrum Community Solutions for \$268,600.
- B. Do not award the contract at this time.

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III. RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Alternative "A."

IV. JUSTIFICATION:

The Louisville Metro Housing Authority received two responses to its request for proposals for Parkway Place Broadband. One response, Spectrum, offered both the lowest cost and highest internet speed.

Currently, Spectrum offers internet services to qualifying, low-income families, but that service is limited to 30 megabytes per second (mbps) and could be inadequate for multiple students doing non-traditional instruction from home. If an adult was also working from home, that speed would be even more troublesome.

Spectrum proposed an internet speed of 200 megabytes per second, twice that of the other bidder, and fast enough to cover all the needs related to school, work and leisure for Parkway Place families.

Spectrum's standard monthly bulk rate price for 200 mbps service is \$47.50 per household, but they will provide that same service to LMHA for Parkway Place families for \$30.00 per household. Spectrum will invest a total \$118,878.35 in infrastructure and wiring with LMHA in the first year contributing \$40,000.00 toward the same.

Providing broadband services to Parkway Place's 635 households for the first year will total \$288,600.00 and during a renewed second year of the contract will be \$235,458.00 factoring in a projected 3% increase.

Approval of this resolution will provide Parkway Place residents with broadband services through at least late 2022 getting them past the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic and giving families some much needed monthly savings as they work to recover financially.

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V. BUDGET APPROVAL:

Funding for this project is provided surplus Operating Funds from the CARES ACT.

Angela Larsson, Director of Finance

Date

VI. PROCUREMENT CERTIFICATION:

The procurement of this contract is in compliance with the Louisville Metro Housing Authority procurement policies and procedures.

Steve Webb, Purchasing Agent

Date

Submitted by: Dan Farrell
Director of Special Programs
November 17, 2020