

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST,
FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE
OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION"
BY AMENDING SECTION 2-773, "CONE OF
SILENCE" TO ADD A PROVISION IF ONLY ONE
VENDOR HAS RESPONDED TO A SOLICITATION;
PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING
FOR REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS;
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Key West finds that it is
necessary to amend the "cone of silence" ordinance to
facilitate communications in cases where only one bid or
proposal is received in response to a solicitation;" and

WHEREAS, an amendment to section 2-773 of the Code of
Ordinances will promote the health, safety and welfare of
the citizens and visitors of the City of Key West.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF KEY
WEST, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That Section 2-773 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows*:

Sec. 2-773. - Code of silence.

(a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section, reference to one gender shall include the other, use of the plural shall include the singular, and use of the singular shall include the plural. The following definitions apply unless the context in which the word or phrase is used requires a different definition:

(1) *Competitive solicitation* means a formal process by the City of Key West relating to the acquisition of goods or services, which process is intended to provide an equal and open opportunity to qualified persons and entities to be selected to provide the goods or services. Competitive solicitation shall include request for proposals ("RFP"), request for qualifications ("RFQ"), request for letters of interest ("RFLI"), invitation to bid ("ITB") or any other advertised solicitation.

*(Coding: Added language is underlined; deleted language is ~~struck through~~ at first reading. Added language is double underlined and ~~double struck through~~ at second reading.)

(2) *Cone of silence* means a period of time during which there is a prohibition on communication regarding a particular competitive solicitation.

(3) *Evaluation or selection committee* means a group of persons appointed or designated by the city to evaluate, rank, select, or make a recommendation regarding a vendor or the vendor's response to the competitive solicitation. A member of such a committee shall be deemed a city official for the purposes of subsection (c) below.

(4) *Vendor* means a person or entity that has entered into or that desires to enter into a contract with the City of Key West or that seeks an award from the city to provide goods, perform a service, render an opinion or advice, or make a recommendation related to a competitive solicitation for compensation or other consideration.

(5) *Vendor's representative* means an owner, individual, employee, partner, officer, or member of the board of directors of a vendor, or a consultant, lobbyist, or actual or potential subcontractor or sub-consultant who acts at the behest of a vendor in communicating regarding a competitive solicitation.

(b) *Prohibited communications.* A cone of silence shall be in effect during the course of a competitive solicitation and prohibit:

(1) Any communication regarding a particular competitive solicitation between a potential vendor or vendor's representative and the city's administrative staff including, but not limited to, the city manager and his or her staff;

(2) Any communication regarding a particular competitive solicitation between a potential vendor or vendor's representative and the mayor, city commissioners, or their respective staff;

(3) Any communication regarding a particular competitive solicitation between a potential vendor or vendor's representative and any member of a city evaluation and/or selection committee therefore; and

(4) Any communication regarding a particular competitive solicitation between the mayor, city commissioners, or their respective staff, and a member of a city evaluation and/or selection committee therefore.

(c) *Permitted communications.* Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing contained herein shall prohibit:

(1) Communication between members of the public who are not vendors or a vendor's representative and any city employee, official or member of the city commission;

(2) Communications in writing at any time with any city employee, official or member of the city commission, unless specifically prohibited by the applicable competitive solicitation.

(A) However, any written communication must be filed with the city clerk. Any city employee, official or member of the city commission receiving or making any written communication must immediately file it with the city clerk.

(B) The city clerk shall include all written communication as part of the agenda item when publishing information related to a particular competitive solicitation;

(3) Oral communications at duly noticed pre-bid conferences;

(4) Oral presentations before publically noticed evaluation and/or selection committees;

(5) Contract discussions during any duly noticed public meeting;

(6) Public presentations made to the city commission or advisory body thereof during any duly noticed public meeting;

(7) Contract negotiations with city staff following the award of a competitive solicitation by the city commission; or

(8) Purchases exempt from the competitive process pursuant to section 2-797 of these Code of Ordinances;

(d) *Procedure.*

(1) The cone of silence shall be imposed upon each competitive solicitation at the time of public notice of such solicitation as provided by section 2-826 of this Code. Public notice of the cone of silence shall be included in the notice of the competitive solicitation. The city manager shall issue a written notice of the release of each competitive solicitation to the affected departments, with a copy thereof to each commission member, and shall include in any public solicitation for goods and services a statement disclosing the requirements of this ordinance.

(2) The cone of silence shall terminate:

(A) ~~a~~At the time the city commission or other authorized body makes final award or gives final approval of a contract, rejects all bids or responses to the competitive solicitation, or takes other action which ends the competitive solicitation.

(B) At the deadline for submission of responses to the solicitation if only one vendor has responded.

(3) Any city employee, official or member of the city commission that is approached concerning a competitive solicitation while the cone of silence is in effect shall notify such individual of the prohibitions contained in this section. While the cone of silence is in effect, any city employee, official or member of the city commission who is the recipient of any oral communication by a potential vendor or vendor's representative in violation of this section shall create a written record of the event. The record shall indicate the date of such communication, the persons with whom such communication occurred, and a general summation of the communication.

(e) *Violations/penalties and procedures.*

(1) A sworn complaint alleging a violation of this ordinance may be filed with the city attorney's office. In each such instance, an initial investigation shall be performed to determine the existence of a violation. If a violation is found to exist, the penalties and process shall be as provided in section 1-15 of this Code.

(2) In addition to the penalties described herein and otherwise provided by law, a violation of this ordinance shall render the competitive solicitation void at the discretion of the city commission.

(3) Any person who violates a provision of this section shall be prohibited from serving on a City of Key West advisory board, evaluation and/or selection committee.

(4) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, violation of any provision of this ordinance by a City of Key West employee shall subject said employee to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

(5) If a vendor is determined to have violated the provisions of this section on two more occasions it shall constitute evidence under City Code section 2-834 that the vendor is not properly qualified to carry out the

obligations or to complete the work contemplated by any new competitive solicitation. The city's purchasing agent shall also commence any available debarment from city work proceeding that may be available upon a finding of two or more violations by a vendor of this section.

Section 2: If any section, provision, clause, phrase, or application of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall be construed as reasonable and necessary to achieve the lawful purposes of this Ordinance.

Section 3: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances of said City in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby superseded to the extent of such conflict.

Section 4: This Ordinance shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the presiding officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Read and passed on first reading at a regular meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Read and passed on final reading at a regular meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Authenticated by the presiding officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____ day of _____, 2019.

Filed with the Clerk _____, 2019.

Mayor Teri Johnston	_____
Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Gregory Davila	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	_____
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____

TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK