

**From:** Ivy R. Taylor (Mayor)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2017 3:24 PM  
**To:** Sheryl Sculley (CMO)  
**Cc:** Andy Segovia (City Attorney)  
**Subject:** Barge contract next steps

Sheryl,

I appreciate the efforts you and your staff have made during the past week to answer the questions I laid out in my email about the barge contract and to address the perceived lack of transparency and consistency in the contracting process. We all agree that this contract is important and I do recognize that you and your team have established new processes during your tenure to help select the most competent and qualified providers for City services. Due to the extended nature of the barge contracting process, Council and Council Committees have been briefed a number of times, which we appreciate.

However, the fact remains that our established processes, and City of San Antonio Ethics regulations, do not seem to have been followed during the preparation for and delivery of presentations. Last-minute notifications of changes in process, as well as the inaction of City staff who were unwilling or unable to enforce either the instructions provided to respondents or the City of San Antonio ordinances regarding unregistered lobbying, have tainted this process beyond redemption.

I am mindful of your statement that the proposal recommended by staff is the strongest for San Antonio, but as an elected official and a public servant I cannot accept a flawed or unethical process, even if it gets us to the “right” outcome. The ends do not justify the means. We owe our residents and taxpayers a clean process.

Based on my discussions with colleagues on City Council, there are at least two options right now: scrap the existing process and issue a new RFP, or eliminate the top-ranked respondent and have the City Council interview the remaining respondents. This issue needs to be discussed by Council in the appropriate forum, such as Executive Session, during the coming week. We also need to discuss how City Council can be assured that further work on this contract will be handled by staff with the capacity to develop and deliver a clean process. I suggest that we consider a citizens’ oversight body to ensure accountability.

Thank you,

Ivy