

From: Sheryl Sculley (CMO)
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 7:20 PM
To: Ivy R. Taylor (Mayor)
Cc: Andy Segovia (City Attorney); Mayor and Council
Subject: RE: Barge contract next steps

Mayor,

I am in receipt of your email sent this afternoon concerning the barge contract. As a follow up to our meeting late this afternoon that included Andy Segovia, I want to address two fundamental issues:

- Over the last eleven years City Staff has been committed to developing and managing a procurement process that is fair and transparent so that the City can benefit from the best qualified providers of goods and services. As with any complex process that is trying to balance competing objectives, timing constraints, and multiple policy programs, the need to look for constant improvements and foster consistency is always there. Our record clearly indicates that City Staff and Council have done an excellent job of procuring quality products and services for the community within the context of policy direction. We will continue in that effort.
- There is no evidence to suggest that the process was purposely designed so that a specific proposal would emerge as the winner. My staff did not have a preconceived preference for the barge concession provider and most certainly did not engage in any process engineering or unethical conduct to give any proposer an unfair advantage. That conduct is not condoned or tolerated. My staff is committed to following best practices and ethical principles in conducting any activity within the scope of the City Manager. Unfortunately, it appears that not all of the bidders have strictly adhered to Council adopted restrictions on communications for high profile solicitations.

I share your view that the issues concerning process and moving forward are best addressed in a discussion with the full City Council. Our collective goal and guiding principle should be to identify a plan that allows for a game changing River Barge experience for both residents and visitors. As discussed with you late today, City Staff is prepared to present several options for moving forward next week.

Sheryl Sculley