

MEMO

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Brad Bennett, Finance Manager

RE: Amendment to Purchasing Code 3.08.060

DATE: May 13th, 2024

WCC 3.08.060 Bids and Proposals required provision G has a sunset clause of June 18, 2024. This provision is used to contract with local non-profits for services to address emergent issues. It is helpful because it allows the county to contract on an expedited basis and it also is a more effective way to work with local non-profits that do not have the resources to respond to request for proposals. We have written this amendment to focus on non-profits because the process available to contract with businesses seem to be working well.

We are proposing some additional provisions to WCC 3.08.060 to make county purchasing code consistent with state law in areas where we think it improves the county's efficiency and effectiveness.

- Public defender services, RCW 36.32.245 excludes public defenders' services from procurement requirements. Our code does not exclude public defender services from its requirements. In the past this has not been a problem because public defenders were appointed by court order. A change in court rules limits the court to appointing public defenders only as a last resort. The County Clerk is charged with finding conflict council and in some circumstances the Public Defenders Office sends some of their work to private attorneys.
- Contracts supporting low income housing projects, RCW 36.32.245 excludes contracts supporting low income housing projects from procurement requirements. These projects are usually unique opportunities and are prompted by a request from a project sponsor. The county's proposed participation in these projects is negotiated subject to County Council approval.
- Contracts for Election Materials, RCW 36.32.415 excludes contracts for election materials containing the names of candidates and/or ballot titles from procurement requirements. The time frame for getting election material printed is always tight and it is critical that the work is done by a reliable vendor.