

Recommendation re: Award of Request for Proposal No. 7076 - Citywide Homeless Strategy and Implementation Plan

In the FY 2017 budget the City Commission approved an initiative to focus on mitigating the citywide homelessness problem that is affecting our neighborhoods and community. The first step in this process was to solicit professional services to develop a Citywide Homeless Strategy & Implementation Plan to reduce and significantly mitigate the impacts of homelessness and the externalities affecting quality of life and property values within the City of Lakeland. The Plan is intended to articulate the City's priorities and provide a guide for future investments, funding and evaluation to support a local community response to homelessness. The Plan will also include strategies to raise awareness, build consensus amongst community stakeholders, identification of opportunities to improve current City policies and a framework to measure the effectiveness of the Homeless Strategy and Implementation Plan.

In January 2017, the City of Lakeland solicited proposals through Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 7076 with four firms responding. A Selection Committee comprised of representatives from the City Manager's Office, Community Redevelopment, Finance, Police, Lakeland Vision, and the Lakeland Downtown Development Authority met in an open public forum on April 18, 2017 to rank the four firms with the Committee ranking the firms as follows:

1. Florida Housing Coalition – Tallahassee, FL	\$ 80,000
2. Morningside Research and Consulting, Inc – Austin, TX	\$ 45,870
3. Marbut Consulting – San Antonio, TX	\$ 28,805
4. Lead Homelessness Initiative, Inc – Orlando, FL	\$187,052

After the Selection Committee completed the rankings the Committee recommended that Florida Housing Coalition be approved as the top ranked firm. A workshop with the City Commission on June 2, 2017 provided the Florida Housing Coalition and opportunity to outline the scope of work that will take place over the next 11 months including the following:

- Gathering Community and Stakeholder input
- Mapping and Analysis of Current Housing Crisis Response System to include Inventory current social services
- Research and Data Analysis
- Estimating Costs of Homelessness and Benefits to Reducing Homelessness
- Prioritization of Plan Strategies
- Establishing and engaging Champion Group
- Implement improvement strategies for Housing Crisis Response System
- Develop and implementation of strategies to increase Access to Housing

It is recommended that the City Commission authorize the appropriate City officials to execute a contract with the top ranked firm Florida Housing Coalition, Inc. to provide professional services to develop a Citywide Homeless Strategy & Implementation Plan as outlined in RFP No. 7076 in the amount of \$80,000.