



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

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CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

MAYOR EMANUEL AND DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES ANNOUNCE NEW TOOL TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY OF CITY PROCUREMENT PROCESS

DPS also announces M/WBE businesses received 36 percent of contract payments for 2014 to date

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Department of Procurement Services (DPS) today announced the Bid Tracker application, an innovative tool designed to bring additional transparency to the procurement process.

"From day one, government transparency has been a priority of my administration, and I've instructed all City departments to find creative ways to use technology to make City government more accessible," said Mayor Emanuel. "Bringing additional transparency to the contracting process is just another way we're increasing the information available to the public and businesses that are interested in doing business with the City."

Launched this month, the Bid Tracker application, which is available on the City-wide Vendor Contract and Payment Search site. The application provides a graphic display that shows the point at which a bid is at in the contracting process, from advertisement to award. "Under the leadership of Mayor Rahm Emanuel, we are continually working to provide more information to the business community," said Chief Procurement Officer Jamie L. Rhee. "This transparency ensures fairness, competition and best value for Chicago's residents."

Bid Tracker will allow vendors and the public to see the status of a solicitation on a timeline graphic. By entering a bid number into the application, the user can see the current contracting phase of that bid. The procurement milestones that are displayed depend on the type of solicitation. The phases of commodity and low-bid construction contracts that are visible in Bid Tracker include: Receipt of New Project by DPS, Advertisement Date, Bid Opening, Recommendation of Award, Awarded Date.

Request for Qualification (RFQ) and Request for Proposal (RFP) solicitations include additional information, such as the status of Oral Presentations and Negotiations.

In addition to announcing the Bid Tracker application, DPS announced the year to date M/WBE contract payment numbers. This is the second year in which DPS has data to be able to report real-time payment information, which provides a more accurate reflection of the impact on

Chicagoland's minority and women-owned businesses. These payments, made against contracts between January 2014 and September 2014, totaled \$531 million. Of the total payments made during this period, 29 percent went to MBEs and seven percent went to WBEs, as compared to 29 percent MBE and eight percent WBE in 2013. African American firms were paid \$61.7 million, or 12 percent, as compared to 11 percent in 2013. Hispanic firms were paid \$70.6 million, or 13 percent, as compared to 13 percent in 2013. Asian American firms were paid \$28.4 million, or five percent, as compared to six percent in 2013. Women-owned firms were paid \$30.4 million, or six percent, as compared to seven percent in 2013.

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