

**CITY OF COLUMBUS  
BID WAIVER INFORMATION FORM**

TO ACCOMPANY LEGISLATION WHICH WAIVES ANY PROVISIONS OF COLUMBUS CITY CODES CHAPTER 329  
(PLEASE LIMIT YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS SHEET)

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1. Reasons for waiving City Code bid procedure:

- emergency breakdown causing unplanned need
- item to be purchased is of a perishable nature
- need to extend and existing contract
- there is not enough time to obtain formal bids to satisfy need
- non-price error on either the bidder's or the City's part in the bid proposal
- a new law or regulation requires immediate compliance
- other See Attached Memorandum

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2. Detailed explanation of reason (must be completed by division):

See attached memorandum

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3. Informal procedure used:

- telephone quotations
- written quotations
- negotiations

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4. Informal bids received and prices for each:

N/A

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5. If lowest bid was not accepted, explain criteria for award:

N/A

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ORDINANCE #:

1785-2016

APPROVED BY:

Authorized Approval on Corresponding Legislative File

DATE:

5/23/2016

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### **Flow Meter Bid Waiver Memorandum**

At our Division of Sewage and Drainage, we have been monitoring flow in the collection system over the last 20 years, and we currently have over 230 flow meters and rain gauges deployed. As the wireless carrier starts to phase out the 2G network at the end of year 2016, we are in the need of replacing our meters to the latest 3G standards. As of today, we need to purchase total 80 new flow meters and 23 rain gauges. We are pursuing these replacements with a competitive bid waiver as outlined below:

- 1) Maintain data consistency – Our consent order plan (Blueprint Columbus) was developed using the collection system model, and the model was developed and calibrated based on the flow monitoring data. To understand the effectiveness of Blueprint program, we need to exclude the uncertainty caused by a different meter manufacturer. A change to a different manufacturer could lead to improper assessments to the improvements in the collection system due to the calibration differences associated with different flow monitoring manufacturers. It is best to remain with the same manufacturer to avoid this possibility.
- 2) With a different manufacturer, the new data will be in a completely different format from the existing database. It will force us to purchase the new manufacturer's software, and will significantly increase the difficulty for data management as we host two separate data bases.
- 3) Our flow monitor crew was well trained in both ADS flow meter hardware and software. If we change to a new manufacturer, it will require a steep learning curve for our crew, allocating time to learn of the changes versus meter work in the field.
- 4) ADS provided us a 40% discount on the new meters. They are also working rigorously to update the software to make data editing easier for us. The competitors' meter prices are twice to three times more expensive than ADS's price, plus they do not have nearly the battery life, and do not produce the same quality data.
- 5) Because the 2G wireless network will stop working by the end of year 2016, we will lose communication to our meters. There is urgency to purchase new meters now and replace them before the loss of communication.

This waiver is only intended to cover the one time purchase of 80 flow meters and 23 rain gauges. In the future, we will follow the competitive bid process to acquire new meters.