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**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. In accordance with section 329.27 of the Columbus City Code, City Council may determine that the City's best interest is served by waiving the City Code Formal Bid procedures for the following reason(s): (Note that these reasons are all based on time. Currently, formal bid average completion time is 160 calendar days.)**

- An unanticipated breakdown created an unplanned, emergency need.
- The item to be purchased is of a perishable nature, the price or availability will perish before the formal bid process can be completed.
- Need to extend an existing contract for one year or more where no provision for extension was included in the original bid/contract.
- Need to increase a contract for additional supplies/services, although the original contract obligations have been fulfilled.
- A new law or regulation requires immediate compliance; there is insufficient time to accomplish formal competitive bidding and satisfy the needs in order to comply.
- Other: There is not enough time to obtain formally advertised, competitive sealed bids to satisfy the needs because:

To effectively and efficiently provide support to help create a safer city, the Columbus Division of Police Digital Forensics Unit has an urgent need to acquire hardware and software to extract digital evidence from cellular phones. As the world evolves, law enforcement has to reimagine its approach to solving crimes and dealing with violence. Using digital evidence will assist in this goal. Almost every single crime or incident has some trace of digital evidence involved with it. Due to this fact, more units within the Division of Police are using Digital Forensics Unit services. With increased crime and homicides, the demands for digital evidence recovery and forensic analysis have significantly increased the caseload in the Digital Forensics Unit.

The vendor Cellebrite Inc. has the equipment and licensed software called Cellebrite Hardware Premium Unlocking Device and Service (Premium) sold exclusively to law enforcement. The equipment is an on-site solution that caters to both iOS-Apple and Android phones. It is currently the only software solution on the market that can access and decrypt a majority of locked devices that Digital Forensics Unit personnel cannot access without a pin code, swipe pattern, etc. With Premium, Digital Forensics Unit detectives would gain an advantage by having the ability to unlock and decrypt more phones and extract more evidence from them. This evidence includes accessing: 3rd party Apps, stored passwords and tokens, chat conversations, location data, email attachments, system logs, deleted content, and much more. Also, Cellebrite offers free unlocking services at their facility with Premium. This service is ideal for newer phones and usually costs approximately \$2,000.00 per phone.

Currently, the Digital Forensics Unit cannot decrypt the newer iOS and Android phones, and with current forensics software, cannot obtain high-level evidence extractions. Therefore, Digital Forensics Unit detectives rely on the lead investigating detective to retrieve the pin code from the owner, suspect, victim, etc. Unfortunately, many times this is not possible, or the person just flat out refuses. In these cases, crucial evidence cannot be recovered.

For these reasons, I request the waiver of complete bidding and the consideration of the identified vendor to provide the Cellebrite Hardware Premium Unlocking Device and Service. The vendor

has already established a verifiable track record of success with the City of Columbus and has a proven and unmatched track record of delivering innovative digital forensic solutions that help law enforcement globally to access data from hundreds of devices. The vendor will also assist in the recovery of evidence that they will stand behind in court.

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2. Informal bid procedure used:  Yes  No Explain:

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3. Informal bids received and prices for each:

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4. If lowest bid was not accepted, Explain:

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Ordinance No.:

Approved By: Authorized Approval on Corresponding Legislative File

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