



Legislation Text

File #: 2314-2019, **Version:** 1

BACKGROUND

This ordinance authorizes the Director of the Department of Public Safety to enter into contract with Modern Technologies for Augmented and Virtual Reality Training Services (VR) for the Divisions of Police and Fire. Columbus City Council via ordinance 2061-2019, appropriated \$81,000.00 within Safety Initiative Funds to the two divisions for the purpose of establishing a VR pilot program for police and fire training. City Council worked with the divisions of Police and Fire to identify projects that will prove the effectiveness of VR in the training environment.

The Division of Police has identified recruit firearms proficiency requirement to be the focus of their pilot. Each year, recruits from the Division are required to demonstrate proficiency with a firearm as a requirement for graduation. The identified pilot program would create a virtual shooting range in which recruits and training staff could identify weaknesses and improve upon mistakes.

The Division of Fire has identified arson and fire investigation training to be the focus of their pilot. VR training will allow trainees to examine multiple virtual fire scenes, and improve the ways that they detect and identify fire accelerants. In addition, VR training is safer for those participating than the current field training performed by the division, especially in regards to risk of exposure to hazardous carcinogens.

This ordinance also authorizes the transfer of Funds within the Safety Initiative Fund to properly align appropriations with projected expenditure.

Bid Information: This contract is recommended to be made with a waiver of formal bidding requirements as Police and Fire have identified the vendor as the best to meet their training needs and ensure the success of the program.

EMERGENCY DESIGNATION: Emergency action is requested to ensure that the Divisions of Police and Fire have the Virtual Reality training established in time for the upcoming Police and Fire academy classes to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Columbus.

FISCAL IMPACT: This ordinance authorizes the the Safety Director to enter into contract with Modern Technologies for \$81,000.00 for the establishment of a VR training pilot program for the Divisions of Police and Fire. This ordinance also authorizes the City Auditor to transfer funds within the Safety Initiative Subfund for the establishment of this contract.

To authorize the City Auditor to transfer funds within the Safety Initiative Fund; to authorize the Public Safety Director to enter into contract with Modern Technologies to establish a Virtual Reality training pilot program within the Divisions of Police and Fire; to waive the competitive bidding provisions of the Columbus City Code; to authorize the expenditure of \$81,000.00 from the Safety Initiative Subfund; and to declare an emergency. (\$81,000.00)

WHEREAS, it is necessary to authorize the City Auditor to transfer appropriation within the Safety Initiative Fund, from Materials and Supplies to Contractual Services in order to properly align appropriation with projected expenditure; and,

WHEREAS, the Divisions of Police and Fire have identified areas of need where virtual reality can assist the training of recruits; and,

WHEREAS, City Council, through ordinance 2061-2019 passed on July 22, 2019, appropriated \$81,000.00 within the Safety Initiative subfund to the two divisions for the purpose of establishing a VR pilot program for police and fire training; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety now has the need to contract with Modern Technologies and expend \$81,000.00 for the establishment of a virtual reality training pilot program for the two divisions; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety recommends that it is in the City's best interest to waive the competitive bidding provisions of the Columbus City Code as Police and Fire have identified the vendor as best suited for the training pilot; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Department of Public Safety, in that it is necessary to ensure that the Department of Public Safety can immediately establish a contract in time for the upcoming Police and Fire academy classes for the immediate preservation of the public health, peace, property, safety, and welfare; **now, therefore:**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to transfer \$81,000.00, or so much thereof as may be needed within the Safety Initiative Fund per the account codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 2: That the Public Safety Director is hereby authorized to enter into contract with Modern Technologies on behalf of the Divisions of Police and Fire, to establish virtual reality training pilot programs for the two divisions.

SECTION 3. That the expenditure of \$81,000.00 or so much thereof may be necessary in regard to the action authorized in SECTION 2, is hereby authorized in the Safety Initiative Fund 1000, subfund 100016 per the account codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 4. That this Council finds it is in the City's best interest to waive the competitive bid requirements of the Columbus City code to allow the contract with Modern Technology.

SECTION 5. That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

SECTION 6: That for reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.