CITY OF ATLANTA
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
LADAWN BLACKETT
INTERIM INSPECTOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT PROCUREMENT REVIEW DIVISION

Independent Procurement Review Report

TO: Atlanta City Council

DATE: March 17, 2025

The purpose of this report is to communicate the results of the following solicitation.

Background

The Department of Parks and Recreation requested an Invitation for Bids for the project and scope shown below. Invitations for Bids are to be awarded to the lowest responsive or responsible bidder. This project was previously cancelled.

Solicitation#	IFB/PS/DPR/2409-1250047
Project Name:	Pools and Splash Pads Maintenance Services
Estimated Dollar Amount:	$1,800,000
Term:	Three years with two one-year renewal options
Recommended Awardee:	StandGuard Aquatics, Inc.
DOP Responsive Bidders:	Pool Management LLC StandGuard Aquatics, Inc. United Pool Maintenance LLC
All Bidders:	Aquatic Management Inc Kissberg/ Parker-Fry, JV Pool Management LLC Smith Aquatics, Inc. StandGuard Aquatics, Inc. United Pool Maintenance LLC

Observations and Responses

Initiation

Observation 1: This solicitation was previously cancelled twice. For IFB/ DPR/2210-1230129, the User Agency cited no bids were received. For IFB/CS/ DPR/2309-1240071, the user agency cited irregularities in the solicitation.

IPro does not require a response from DOP for this observation.

Evaluation

Observation 2: A bid spread is the difference between the lowest and highest bids as a percentage of the lowest bid. Bids more than 20% apart could be an indication of collusive bidding. The bid spread for this solicitation is 116.89%.

> DOP Response: The price difference is a result of suppliers that may have limited-service coverage or performance, while other suppliers have prior industry experience with the requested sites and services. This disparity in familiarity and service scope accounts for the variation in pricing.

Award

Observation 3: The User Agency did not award the lowest bidder and cited it failing to meet the requirements outlined in the Statement of Offeror's Qualifications by not providing examples of past or ongoing projects similar in scope and complexity. This requirement was not listed on DOP's Responsive Review Checklist.

The User Agency recommended the second lowest bidder for award.

> DOP Response: The user agency elected to include the Statement of Offeror's Qualifications form as a mechanism to determine responsibility for potential suppliers. The omission of this form on the responsiveness review checklist was an oversight. However, the user agency evaluated this documentation for all responsive bidders and provided justification for award to the second lowest bidder.

The review yielded no additional findings.

Methodology

The Independent Procurement Division reviews the following stages of the procurement process:

- Initiation
- Solicitation
- Responsive Review
- Evaluation
- Award

In accordance with Atlanta City Charter Article 8, Section 8-107, and Section 2-1604 of the Atlanta Code of Ordinances, the Independent Procurement Review Division of the Office of the Inspector General must review all solicitations with an aggregate value of $1,000,000 or greater seeking approval by the Atlanta City Council, for file completeness, conflicts of interest, and other areas of perceived deficiency; must review all cooperative purchase agreements and piggyback contracts with an aggregate value greater than $1,000,000; and may conduct discretionary reviews of any value.