

ORDINANCE NO. 181910

An ordinance adding Article 21 to Division 10, Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code establishing a Local Business Preference Program for the City's procurement of goods, equipment and services, including construction, when the contract involves an expenditure in excess of \$150,000.00.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

CHAPTER I, ARTICLE 21

LOCAL BUSINESS PREFERENCE PROGRAM

Section 1. Article 21 is added to Division 10, Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code to read as follows:

Sec. 10.47. Findings and Purpose.

Pursuant to City Charter Section 371, the City Council hereby adopts a Local Business Preference Program and makes the following findings. The City has a proprietary interest in leveraging, to the greatest extent possible, the millions of dollars it spends yearly contracting with private firms for goods, equipment and services to and for the benefit of the City and its residents. The City has a proprietary interest in leveling the playing field among those entities competing for City contracts, to assure the greatest level of competition possible, to decrease local unemployment, and to increase its revenues. Significant benefits are associated with a Local Business Preference Program. These include an increase in local jobs and expenditures in the local private sector. Preference programs in other jurisdictions have been successful where the business conditions approximate the conditions currently being experienced in the Los Angeles area. For example, preference programs work best where unemployment is high. Unemployment in Los Angeles County is at an historical high. The Los Angeles area also hosts a range of local markets to manage the necessary transportation and logistical support for local contractor services.

Historically, many of the larger cities within the County, especially the City of Los Angeles itself, experience labor costs that are among the highest in the nation. Los Angeles area labor costs are more than 5% higher than the hourly wages in competing neighboring states. Business space in the Los Angeles metropolitan area is even more costly than comparable space in other counties and states. Specifically, average office rents in the Los Angeles area are 40% higher than the national average and almost 30% higher than those in neighboring counties, including San Bernardino and Riverside. On a national level, Los Angeles is one of the ten most expensive places to do business as a result of the local tax and fee structure. All corporations in California are subject to a corporate tax that is among the highest in the nation. These conditions create a very expensive climate in which local businesses must compete. The cost of doing business

in Los Angeles is more than 10% higher than other cities. Local businesses confront cost structures that are weighted much heavier, in terms of labor and costs of doing business, than competitive firms that are located in outlying counties or other states.

This narrowly tailored preference program is fashioned to encourage businesses to compete for City contracting opportunities, to locate operations in the City, and to encourage existing local businesses to refrain from relocating to different, less expensive areas.

Sec. 10.47.1. Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply to this Section:

A. **"Awarding Authority"** means any Board or Commission of the City, or any employee or officer of the City, except those of departments that control their own funds, authorized to award or enter into any Contract, as defined in this Article, on behalf of the City. The Proprietary Departments and the Departments of Recreation and Parks, Library and the Community Redevelopment Agency are strongly encouraged to adopt local preference programs consonant with the provisions in this Article.

B. **"Bid"** means any response to a City solicitation for bids pursuant to Charter Section 371.

C. **"City"** means the City of Los Angeles.

D. **"Contract"** means a written agreement involving consideration in excess of \$150,000.00 for the purchase of goods, equipment or services, including construction, by or for the benefit of the City or its residents.

E. **"Contractor"** means the person, business or entity awarded the Contract by the Awarding Authority.

F. **"County"** means the County of Los Angeles.

G. **"Designated Administrative Agency,"** or **"DAA,"** means the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Contract Administration.

H. **"Local Business"** means a business entity that meets all of the criteria established under this Article.

I. **"Local Subcontractor"** means a subcontractor that meets the same criteria as a "Local Business" as defined in this Article.

J. **"Proposal"** means any response to a City solicitation for Proposals pursuant to Charter Section 372.

Sec. 10.47.2. Qualified Local Business.

A Local Business for purposes of this Article must satisfy all of the following criteria, as certified by the DAA:

- A. The business occupies work space within the County. The business must submit proof of occupancy to the City by supplying evidence of a lease, deed or other sufficient evidence demonstrating that the business is located within the County.
- B. The business must submit proof to the City demonstrating that the business is in compliance with all applicable laws relating to licensing and is not delinquent on any Los Angeles City or Los Angeles County taxes.
- C. The business must submit proof to the City demonstrating one of the following:
 - (1) The business must demonstrate that at least 50 of full-time employees of the business perform work within the boundaries of the County at least 60 percent of their total, regular hours worked on an annual basis, or;
 - (2) The business must demonstrate that at least half of the full-time employees of the business work within the boundaries of the County at minimum of 60 percent of their total, regular hours worked on an annual basis; or
 - (3) The business must demonstrate that it is headquartered in the County. For purposes of this Article, the term "headquartered" shall mean that the business physically conducts and manages all of its operations from a location in the County.

Sec. 10.47.3. Provisionally Qualified Local Business.

A business that has not yet established operations in Los Angeles and therefore is unable to qualify under the terms of Section 10.47.2 may, as an alternative, qualify as a Local Business on a provisional basis if the Contractor satisfies all of the following criteria, as certified by the DAA:

- A. The proposed Contract between the Contractor and the City involves consideration valued at no less than \$1,000,000 and has a term of no less than three years;
- B. The Contractor can demonstrate that the Contractor is a party to an enforceable, contractual right to occupy commercial space within the County and its occupancy will commence no later than 60 days after the date on which the

Contract with the City is executed. The Contractor must demonstrate proof of occupancy or an enforceable right to occupancy in the County by submitting to the City a lease, deed or other sufficient evidence; and

C. The Contractor can demonstrate that, before the Contractor is scheduled to begin performance under the Contract with the City, the Contractor will satisfy the requirements of Subsection C of Section 10.47.2. The Contractor must demonstrate proof of ability to satisfy the requirements of Subsection C of Section 10.47.2 by submitting to the City a business plan or other evidence deemed sufficient by the DAA.

Sec. 10.47.4. Local Business Preference.

Awarding Authorities shall grant an eight percent Local Business Preference to Local Businesses for Contracts involving consideration in excess of \$150,000.00. This Article is not adopted in the City's regulatory capacity.

Sec. 10.47.5. Application of The Preference to Bids And Proposals.

The Local Business Preference shall be applied to Bids and Proposals in the Following Manner:

A. When applying the Local Business Preference to a Bid, the Awarding Authority shall apply the preference to the Bid price solely for Bid evaluation purposes such that the total price bid by a Local Business shall be reduced by eight percent of the amount bid by that Local Business, and the reduced Bid amount shall be deemed the amount bid by that bidder. The Contract price shall in all events be the amount Bid by the successful bidder awarded the Contract.

B. When applying the Local Business Preference to a Proposal, the Awarding Authority shall apply the preference in the form of additional points to the Proposal's final score such that the score awarded to a Proposal submitted by a Local Business is increased by eight percent of the total possible evaluation points.

Sec. 10.47.6. Local Subcontractor Preference.

The Awarding Authority shall provide a preference of up to five percent, to a Bid or Proposal submitted by a business that does not qualify as a Local Business, but that identifies a qualifying Local Subcontractor to perform work under the Contract, provided the Local Subcontractor satisfies the criteria enumerated in Sections 10.47.2 and 10.47.7.

Sec. 10.47.7. Application of the Local Subcontractor Preference.

The Local Subcontractor Preference shall be applied to Bids and Proposals in the following manner:

A. When applying the preference to a Bid, the Awarding Authority shall provide a one percent preference, up to a maximum of five percent, to the Bid price for every ten percent of the cost of the proposed work to be performed by the Local Subcontractor or Local Subcontractors.

B. When applying the Local Subcontractor Preference to a Proposal, the score awarded by the Awarding Authority to the Proposal submitted shall be increased by one percent of the total possible evaluation points, up to a maximum of five percent, for every ten percent of the total cost of the proposed work under the contract to be performed by a Local Subcontractor or Local Subcontractors; provided that each Local Subcontractor, the work of the Local Subcontractor and the cost of the work of the Local Subcontractor are specified clearly in the Proposal.

Sec. 10.47.8. Additional Requirements.

The preferences authorized under this Article shall be subject to the following additional requirements:

(1) The preferences awarded for services shall be applied only if the services are provided directly by the Local Business or Local Subcontractor using employees whose exclusive, primary working location is in Los Angeles County;

(2) The preferences awarded for equipment, goods or materials shall be applied only if the Local Business or the Local Subcontractor substantially acts as the supplier or dealer, or substantially designs, manufactures or assembles the equipment, goods or materials, at a business location in Los Angeles County. As used in this Section, "substantially" means not less than two thirds of the work performed under the Contract must be performed, respectively, by the Local Business or Local Subcontractor;

(3) The maximum Bid or Proposal preference shall not exceed one million dollars for any Bid or Proposal;

(4) The preferences applied pursuant to this Article shall be utilized solely for the purpose of evaluating and selecting the Contractor to be awarded the corresponding Contract. Except as provided pursuant to Section 10.47.9, the preference points shall in no way lower or alter the Contract price, which shall in the case of a Bid reflect the amount Bid by

the successful Local Business before the application of preference points or, in the case of a Proposal, reflect the amount proposed by the Local Business in the Proposal before the application of preference points;

(5) This Article neither creates a right to receive a Bid or Proposal preference, nor the duty to grant a Bid or Proposal preference;

(6) An Awarding Authority may, at anytime before the award of a Contract, determine that it is not in the City's best interest to grant a Bid or Proposal preference and award the Contract to the bidder or proposer eligible for the award without consideration of the provisions of this Article; and

(7) This Article applies only to contracts that involve the expenditure of funds entirely within the City's control and shall not apply to contracts that involve the expenditure of funds that are not entirely within the City's control, such as state and federal grant funds, that due to legal restrictions prohibit its application.

Sec. 10.47.9. Effect of Failure to Maintain Status as Local Business.

A. If for any reason the Contractor fails to qualify as a Local Business for more than 60 days during the entire term of the Contract, the Awarding Authority shall be entitled to withhold or recover funds from the Contractor in an amount that represents the value of the Bid or Proposal Preference.

B. If for any reason the Local Subcontractor, providing the basis for a Local Subcontractor Preference, is unable to, or does not, perform the work under the Contract; the Contractor shall, within 60 days, replace that Local Subcontractor with another Local Subcontractor. If the Contractor is unable to replace the Local Subcontractor specified in the Contract with another Local Subcontractor within 60 days, the Awarding Authority shall be entitled to withhold or recover funds from the Contractor in an amount that represents the value of the Bid or Proposal Preference.

C. For purposes of determining the value of the Bid or Proposal Preference in Subsections A and B herein, the Awarding Authority may withhold or recover the difference in Bid or Proposal price between the Contractor's Bid or Proposal and the Bid or Proposal of the next most competitive Bid or Proposal that did not receive the award of the Contract by the Awarding Authority. In addition, the Awarding Authority may withhold or recover the amount representing any other additional cost or detriment to the City from the Contractor's failure to maintain the Contractor's status as a Local Business for more than 60 days during the term of the Contract.

D. If a Contractor fails to maintain the Contractor's status as a Local Business for more than 60 days during the term of the Contract, as specified in Subsection A and B herein, the failure is subject to recording and reporting requirements as specified under Articles 13 and 14, Chapter 1, Division 10 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code (Contractor Performance Evaluation and Contractor Responsibility Ordinance.)

E. The remedies available to the City under this Subsection are cumulative to all other rights and remedies available to the City.

Sec. 10.47.10. Administration.

The Department of Public Works, Bureau of Contract Administration is the Designated Administrative Agency (DAA) with regard to this Article and shall have the authority to coordinate the administration of this Article. The DAA shall make determinations regarding whether a business qualifies as a Local Business, a Provisionally Qualified Local Business or Local Subcontractor. The DAA shall have broad discretion to promulgate rules to implement and supplement this Article. The DAA may audit Contractors and Subcontractors and monitor compliance, including the investigation of claimed violations.

Sec. 10.47.11. Timing of Application.

The provisions of this Article shall apply to all competitive Bid or Proposal contracts for which solicitations are issued after the effective date of the ordinance adopting this Article.

Sec. 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of OCT 14 2011.

JUNE LAGMAY, City Clerk


By  _____
Deputy

Approved OCT 19 2011 _____

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Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality:

CARMEN A. TRUTANICH, City Attorney

By  _____
LAUREL L. LIGHTNER
Assistant City Attorney

Date October 4, 2011

File No. 11-1673