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**Date:** December 31, 2013, 10:20:54 AM EST

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**Subject: Re: Homeless Services RFP No 00011-13-14 Draft on 12-27-13.docx Final Draft.docx**

Teresa,

Thank you for sending the RFP over. While I know much work has gone into this, I do believe we need to refocus on soliciting ideas (I believe it was termed an *RFP for Solutions* by Council) to help with the problems we are facing. The RFP as currently drafted, while well intentioned, is unlikely to lead us down a constructive path.

I suggest we shelve the RFP as written and return to it after we first issue an RFI (Request for Information / Ideas). When the RFI responses are in, we will be more equipped to prepare a highly constructive RFP. A short window of 30 days will be invaluable to help us plan and solicit ideas that will bring forth potential collaborators and options for moving the city forward. Our window of time should also include a pre-bid summit for issues that have not been covered in the RFI so that the sustainability of our responses to all the issues before us can be inclusive and specific.

Some suggested areas of focus for the RFI:

1. How do we address sustainability and scalability for each section of need in the response to poverty and homelessness in Columbia?
2. How do we effectuate collaboration? As we have seen, the preponderance of service providers have refused to collaborate with the city in any meaningful way during the emergency response period. This is a cultural challenge that needs the City's lead to foster collaboration. Conceptual possibilities can be moved to the RFP process so that the final award can be endorsed as the City's path forward for participation by willing providers.
3. How do we plan for present and future draw-downs in federal and local funding? As Mrs. Plough stated during the original discussion, we need to focus the currently available resources into areas that will lead to the systematic accomplishment of our goals for addressing homelessness and poverty response in light of current fiscal realities.
4. What should the priorities be for the time and money that the city will spend responding to this problem in relationship to time frames and success measurements?

5. How do we address the need for short-term housing as there is very little in Columbia? This area should include self-pay, assisted-pay, emergency housing, stabilization housing, transitional housing, rooming housing, and long-term housing. What are the number of rooms needed in each tranche and how do we attain them? We need ideas from the providers for maximum buy in. Ideas *must* include private and public participation.
6. How do we register and triage those with mental health needs? This currently represents a large sector of our unresolved need. What are the planning and research capabilities the various groups can assist with for triage and placement options?
7. How do we register and triage Veterans who are not historically willing to participate in existing services?
8. How do we develop a comprehensive transportation system for those with emergency needs, poverty needs, and homelessness needs? What are the necessary routes, schedules and criteria? Should this be a separate system that is attached to the homeless services needed in the City?
9. How do we participate in and control the costs of the long-term, year round plan verses the current seasonal operation? What is the role of the City in crafting the plan, establishing the goal, and ongoing stewardship? Some have built very nice facilities only to be crushed under operational costs once established. Others have established a lone ranger approach. Both leave the city with limited access and insight.
10. How do we control people who are released onto the streets daily from existing programs? What are the ideas needed from the broad group of providers that help form some general parameters that can be included in the RFP?
11. How do we address sex offenders? This is a perplexing and critical problem that has been left to our streets by omission and commission.
12. How do we develop an accountability protocol for providers and recipients that can respond to fluid provisions and circumstances within the varying seasonal challenges?
13. How do we identify the various populations that we are seeing on the streets today? This issue needs some conceptual *and* proven insight if we are to accomplish the City's goals for this RFP. We are currently seeing lawless vice, lawless homeless, those in public housing, cultural homeless and clients exiting existing programs for the day. *Each of these issues should be addressed in the request so that specific requirements can be included in the RFP.*
14. How do we address free riders on the system? This includes those who are funded to some extent as well as others who have been seduced by the "how to live homeless" culture now prevailing in Columbia.
15. How do we link components of service with the overall stated goals for poverty and homeless responses that can be sanctioned and supported by the city?
16. How do we create the final draft of the RFP to do all of these things within the framework and accountability of the six goals proposed by council?

These are the questions I would suggest to start the process of really solving this problem. I would like to see the RFI still hit the street next week with the same 30 day window you proposed for the RFP.

***We must make people think!!!***

Thank you and Happy New Year!

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**Subject:** FW: Homeless Services RFP No 00011-13-14 Draft on 12-27-13.docx Final Draft.docx

Please review the attached RFP Final Draft. Due to the subject matter, I want to share it with you and wait to release on January 2, 2014. The remainder of the proposed schedule will stay the same, with the RFP Closing Date on February 3, 2014. If you have any questions or concerns, please reply all. Thank you,

Teresa

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**From:** Livingston, Deborah  
**Sent:** Friday, December 27, 2013 3:32 PM  
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