



**CORPORATE SERVICES COMMISSION (PROCUREMENT SERVICES)
INFORMATION REPORT
REPORT 2017-46**

TO: Mayor van Bynen and Members of Council

SUBJECT: Supply and Delivery of Solar Powered Benches
Award to: Changing Environments, DBA Soofa (Soofa)

ORIGIN: Sunny Khemai, Manager, Procurement Services

DATE: October 27, 2017

PREAMBLE

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

COMMENTS

In 2015, a solar powered charging bench was purchased from Soofa through a Low Value Purchase method of procurement in accordance with the Purchasing By-law 2014-27. The bench has been well received by the community.

In July 2017, Public Works Services submitted a request to Procurement Services to purchase three (3) additional benches and six (6) standalone stations from Soofa based on a Sole Source method of procurement. The capital cost of the benches is approximately CDN \$38,000 with ongoing operating costs of approximately CDN \$28,500 over five years for 9 benches (\$4,500 per year). Estimations provided are based on US currency and account for fluctuations in exchange rates. The purchase also includes updating the existing Soofa bench (purchased in 2015) with a sensor to enable functionality similar to the current bench models.

Public Works Services performed a thorough review of similar type products, however was not able to find any solar powered benches or standalone solar charging stations that provide the same services as the Soofa product. The Soofa product provides not only solar charging, but monitoring movement of pedestrians through Wi-Fi scanning sensors to provide quantitative data to support decisions in the downtown core. All data

that is being collected is non-identifiable, meaning there is no personal data that is being collected that would enable anyone to be identified by the data. The analytics and mobile charging are both supported through solar energy. Soofa also provides monthly reports (standard and customizable) of the analytics data. The information is also available in a cloud based application and supports the Town's open data network with raw data. Soofa offers a unique data sharing between cities through a structured Soofa cities network.

The Purchasing By-law allows for a Sole Source purchase without a competitive bid process in certain circumstances including based on a supplier's unique capability. In this case, Soofa had the unique capability of providing solar powered benches and standalone solar charging stations with the ability to monitor and analyze pedestrian movement.

In the summer of 2017, during a period of recess where regular council meetings were suspended, the C.A.O. authorized the award of this contract in accordance with Section 6.3(c) of the Procurement Bylaw which states that the C.A.O. shall be authorized to award contracts as a result of a Solicitation that normally would require Council approval, provided that a report is submitted to Council, as soon as reasonably possible, setting out the details of any contract awarded pursuant to this authority. This report fulfills the latter requirement of informing Council that this sole source award was made during the Council recess.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

Well Equipped and Managed: Provide efficient, effective and environmentally sound maintenance services to an appropriate level that achieves Council and/or Provincially mandated services levels, which meet public health and safety requirements and enhances quality of life while ensuring that system capital assets retain their value and are managed and funded according to sustainable, lifecycle based principles and practices.

Well-planned and Connected: Strategically planning for the future to improve information access and enhance travel to, from and within Newmarket.

This project also supports Council's 2014-2018 Strategic Priority of Economic Development / Jobs.

BUDGET IMPACT

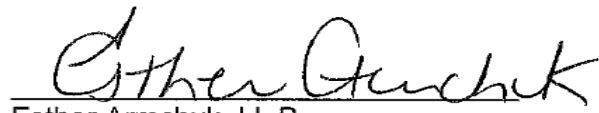
Sufficient funds have been allocated to this project. In addition, approximately \$13,500 in private contributions are expected.

CONTACT

For more information on this report contact Susan Chase (ext. 2301) or Mark Agnoletto (ext. 2581),



Sunny Khemai
Manager, Procurement Services



Esther Armchuk, LL.B.
Commissioner, Corporate Services