

CITY OF EVANSTON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NUMBER: 26-43

For

**PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES
FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING 12/31
2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030**

August 13, 2026



PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 2:00 PM., Thursday, September 10, 2026

ELECTRONIC BID SUBMITTAL:

Bid responses will only be accepted electronically
via E-bidding through DemandStar (WWW.DEMANDSTAR.COM)

**It is highly recommended that new DemandStar users complete the account setup
process prior to project due date/time.**

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CITY OF EVANSTON

NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

The City's Purchasing Office will receive proposals until 2:00 P.M. local time on **Thursday, September 10, 2026**. Responses will only be accepted electronically via E-bidding through DemandStar (www.demandstar.com). Although registration is required, vendors can download solicitations and upload responses for free. Proposals shall cover the following:

PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES

RFP Number: 26-43

The City of Evanston's City Manager's Office of the Evanston Finance Department is seeking proposals from experienced firms for qualified certified public accountants to audit its financial statements for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2026, with the option of auditing its financial statements for each of the four subsequent fiscal years. These audits are to be performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the standards set forth for financial audits in the General Accounting Office's (GAO) Government Auditing Standards, the provisions of the federal Single Audit Act of and U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations. Any special compliance and reporting requirements of the State of Illinois for Tax Increment Financing Districts shall be followed.

The above item shall conform to the RFP on file in the Purchasing Office. Parties interested in submitting a proposal should contact the Purchasing Office to receive a copy of the RFP or see the City's website at: www.cityofevanston.org/business/bids_proposals.php or DemandStar at: www.demandstar.com.

The City (the City of Evanston) in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, hereby notifies all firms that it will affirmatively ensure that the contract(s) entered into pursuant to this notice will be awarded to the successful firm without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation marital status, disability, familial status or national origin. The City of Evanston reserves the right to reject any or all submittals or to accept the submittal(s) deemed most advantageous to the City.

The Evanston City Council also reserves the right to award the contract to an Evanston firm if that firm's bid is within 5% of the low bid.

Each Proposer shall be required to submit with his/her proposal a Disclosure of Ownership Interest Statement Form in accordance with Section 1-18-1 *et seq.* of the City Code. Failure to submit such information may result in the disqualification of such a proposal.

Cheryl Stuart
Purchasing Specialist

CITY OF EVANSTON

Request for Proposal

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City of Evanston (City) is seeking proposals for Professional Auditing Services from qualified firms of certified public accountants to audit its financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, with the option of auditing its financial statements for each of the four subsequent fiscal years ending December. These audits are to be performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the standards set forth for financial audits in the General Accounting Office's (GAO) *Government Auditing Standards*, the provisions of the federal Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations*. Any special compliance and reporting requirements of the State of Illinois for Tax Increment Financing Districts shall be followed.

A five-year contract is contemplated, with an option to renew for two additional year periods.

During the RFP process contact with City personnel in connection with this RFP shall not be made other than as specified in this RFP. Unauthorized contact of any City personnel may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Prior to the submittal of a proposal, Proposers are advised to carefully examine

- the contract documents
- project scope and work tasks to be accomplished
- specifications
- insurance requirements and required documentation

Proposers are advised to become thoroughly familiar with all conditions, instructions and specifications governing this RFP. Proposals shall be made in accordance with these instructions. Proposals shall be submitted on the forms provided by the City

The City will not be liable in any way for any costs incurred by respondents in replying to this Request for Proposals.

2.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. Entity

The City of Evanston comprises all functions and activities of municipal operations. The City's financial statements include all funds, departments, agencies, boards, commissions and other organizations over which the City of Evanston officials exercise oversight responsibility.

B. Scope of Work to be performed

The City of Evanston is requesting proposals from qualified independent auditors to perform a financial audit of all City funds, including governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, capital assets, long-term debt and the aggregate remaining fund information that collectively comprise the City's financial statements. The audit shall be performed in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

The City of Evanston desires the auditor to express an opinion on the fair presentation of its governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information, in conformity with GAAP.

The City of Evanston further requests that the auditor to express an "in-relation-to" opinion on the fair presentation of its combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The auditor is not required to audit the supporting schedules contained in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. However, the auditor is to provide an "in-relation-to" opinion on the supporting schedules based on the auditing procedures applied during the audit of the basic financial statements and the combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules. The auditor is not required to audit the introductory section of the report or the statistical section of the report.

The auditor shall also be responsible for performing certain limited procedures as required for Required Supplementary Information (RSI) as mandated as mandated by generally accepted auditing standards and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

The City is required to undergo a Single Audit performed in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 (Single Audit Act). The auditor is required to audit the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) and perform all procedures necessary to issue the required reports as part of the Single Audit.

Upon the completion of the audit of the fiscal year financial statements, the auditor shall issue:

1. A report on the fair presentation of the basic financial statements in conformity with GAAP, including an opinion on the fair presentation of the supplementary schedule of expenditures of federal awards "in relation to" the audited financial statements.
2. A report on compliance and internal control over financial reporting based on an audit of the financial statements.
3. A report on compliance and internal control over compliance applicable to each major federal program.

4. A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) compliance report on the eligibility of expenditure for costs incurred incidental to the implementation of the redevelopment plan and projects.
5. Assistance with the GFOA awards program, as well as completion and submissions of the comptroller's report.

C. Funds to be audited

The City of Evanston needs the following fund types in its financial reporting:

<u>Fund Type/Account Group</u>	<u>Number of Individual Funds</u>	<u>Number with Legally Adopted Annual Budgets</u>
General Fund	1	1
Special Revenue Funds	17	17
Debt Service Funds	8	8
Capital Projects Funds	3	3
Enterprise Funds	4	4
Internal Service Funds	3	3
Pension Trust Funds	2	0
*Library Funds	3	3

*Library is a discretely reported component unit

In addition to the regular audit to be conducted, the City would like the auditor to conduct a standalone audit of the Motor Fuel Tax fund, which is a non-major fund. This audit can be conducted either before or after the regular audit.

D. Financial Reporting

Report review, editing and printing shall be the responsibility of the auditor, including covers, dividers, spines etc. The Introductory and Management's Discussion and Analysis section, and any necessary letterhead will be provided by the City of Evanston. The auditor shall reproduce 20 copies of the Annual Financial Report, which shall include the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) compliance letter and SEC continuing disclosure statement, and 20 copies of the Single Audit report. The auditors will also provide a digital copy of the reports.

While final responsibility for the financial statements rests with the City of Evanston, the City of Evanston expects that the auditor possesses and demonstrates sufficient expertise in governmental accounting and reporting to assure that all reporting requirements are met.

Demonstration of governmental accounting expertise shall be supported by membership, either current or past, in various governmental accounting and auditing committees and task forces of the Illinois CPA Society or AICPA.

The auditor shall express an unqualified opinion on the basic financial statements. If an unqualified opinion cannot be expressed, the auditor shall bring such matter to the attention of the City of Evanston before issuing the report.

E. Communication from Auditor to Management and the City Council

If, during the examination, the auditor finds any weaknesses in internal control, the auditor shall summarize such findings and recommendations in the form of a separate communication to the City of Evanston immediately as well providing said findings in the communications to management and City Council.

The auditor shall be available to meet with elected officials at one evening meetings to answer any questions regarding the completed audit or communication letter, as requested.

The partner or manager shall be available not only during the audit preparation period, but also on an as-needed basis to answer questions or provide guidance on any issues that may arise throughout the contract period.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GOVERNMENT

- A. The auditor's principal contact with the City of Evanston will be Jess Bennett, Accounting Manager or Hitesh Desai, CFO/Treasurer, or a designated representative, who will coordinate the assistance to be provided by the City of Evanston to the auditor.
- B. Background Information

The City of Evanston covers a stretch of four miles of Lake Michigan's picturesque Western shoreline. The City's 8.0 square miles include residential neighborhoods encircling thoughtfully planned business districts and recreational facilities. Ongoing development of both residential and commercial occupancies has brought the City of Evanston a hint of cosmopolitan flavor, while retaining a close-knit suburban atmosphere. This City is a home-rule community under the State of Illinois Constitution.

The City of Evanston is organized into nine (9) departments (City Manager's Office, Law, Administrative Services, Police, Health and Human Services, Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire, Community Development, and Public Works) with the Evanston Public Library as a separate component unit.. The accounting and financial reporting functions of the City of Evanston are centralized within the Finance Division with is a division of the City Manager's Office.

The City of Evanston' current fiscal year 2026 began on January 1, 2026 and ends on December 31, 2026.

More detailed information on the government and its finances can be on our website.

C. Pension Plans

The City of Evanston participates in the following three (3) pension plans:

Police Pension Fund, Single Employer – Defined Benefit Plan

Fire Pension Fund, Single Employer – Defined Benefit Plan

IL. Municipal Retirement Fund, Agent Multiple Employer– Defined Benefit Plan

The City employs an independent actuary for its annual tax levy requirement.

D. Joint Ventures

The City of Evanston does participate in joint ventures with other governments/organizations. Examples include:

<u>Name of Joint Venture</u>	<u>Type of Services Provided</u>
Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County	Waste disposal landfill

E. Magnitude of Finance Operations

The Finance Division is part of the City Manager's Office. The division is directed by Hitesh Desai, CFO and Treasurer. The principal finance functions performed and the numbers of employees assigned to each are as follows:

<u>Function/Position</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>
CFO/Treasurer	1
Deputy CFO	1
Financial Analysts	2
Accounting Manager	1
Cashiering	3
Water Billing	1
Accountants	2.5
Revenue Manager	1
Collections Supervisor	1
Property Tax Assessment Reviewer	1
Purchasing	3
Accounts Payable Coordinator	1
*decentralized accounts payable	
Payroll	2
Pensions/Special Assessments	.25
Receivables	1

F. Computer Systems

The City uses New World ERP Software, a Tyler Technologies product, for all accounting, payroll, human resources and purchasing functions. The City also uses Accela System for permits, Invoice Cloud for utility billing, Amilia System for Recreation cashiering/ billing, Passport for parking and vehicle licensing, and Orbipay for (in process of switching to Euna Solutions) Cashiering functions. Each of the above subsystems have an interface or partial integration with New World.

G. Federal and State Grants/Funds

The City currently receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) entitlement grants, and the PRO Housing competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City receives many other specific federal and state grants and will be closing out the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) program in 2026.

H. Availability of Prior Audit and Financial Reports

Interested proposers who wish to review budgets, prior ACFRs, Management Letters, and Single Audit reports can review them on our website.

https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/transparency/budget_financial_reports.php

CITY OF EVANSTON - TIME REQUIREMENTS

Note: The City of Evanston is a 12/31 Fiscal Year End, audit and ACFR completion date no later than 6/30/2027.

The audit schedule shall be agreed upon by and with the City of Evanston, but shall typically follow the schedule outlined below. The City prides itself in the ability to consistently obtain the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Therefore, adherence to the general timeframe outlined below is of high importance to the City.

- A. Detailed Audit Plan – The auditor shall provide the City of Evanston both a detailed audit plan and a list of all schedules to be prepared by the City prior to the audit by no later than January 1st of the audit year.
- B. Engagement letter shall be provided to the City by February 1st.
- C. Any preliminary/interim field work and confirmations to be completed early March,

Fieldwork - The auditor shall begin the fieldwork portion of the audit no sooner than April 1st and complete all fieldwork within four weeks of initiation of the audit, but no later than May 15th. The City shall be notified, in advance, of the audit team to be assigned to the City's engagement.

Draft Reports – The auditor shall supply the first draft of the ACFR including the auditor’s report, financial statements, and notes to the financial statements and recommendations to management no later than June 1st of each year.

Final Reports – A final draft version of all financial statements and auditor’s reports must be delivered to the City by no later than June 15th of each year. Presentation shall be made to the Finance and Budget Committee at its July meeting. Final reports must be submitted to the City within five working days of the committee meeting. The auditors should be prepared to make a presentation as part of the proposed engagement.

Single Audit Fieldwork – Single Audit Fieldwork to begin no later August 1, with final Single Audit reports due no later than September 15th of each year.

3.0 INSURANCE

Consultant shall carry and maintain at its own cost with such companies as are reasonably acceptable to City all necessary liability insurance (which shall include as a minimum the requirements set forth below) during the term of this Agreement, for damages caused or contributed to by Consultant, and insuring Consultant against claims which may arise out of or result from Consultant’s performance or failure to perform the Services hereunder.

The consultant must provide an insurance certificate, naming the City of Evanston as an additional insured and will provide a variety of insurances, including:

- comprehensive general liability - \$3,000,000 combined single limit for each occurrence for bodily injury and property damage – designating the City as Additional Insured
- Workers' Compensation - Statutory Limits
- Automobile Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence for all claims arising out of bodily injuries or death and property damages.
- errors and omissions or professional liability insurance - \$1,000,000

The surety and the insurance company must have not less than an A+ rating from the Alfred M. Best Co., Inc., and be approved by the City of Evanston.

Consultant’s certificate of insurance shall contain a provision that the coverage afforded under the policy(s) will not be canceled or reduced without thirty (30) days’ prior written notice (hand delivered or registered mail) to the City.

4.0 SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

The City will no longer accept hard copy paper submittals for any solicitation. Responses will only be accepted electronically via E-bidding through DemandStar. Respondents are still required to complete all of the bid documents and provide all of the requested information in a PDF file(s). **Please refer to the attached DemandStar e-bidding documents.**

ANY PROPOSALS RECEIVED AFTER THE SUBMITTAL DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. It is the sole responsibility of the proposer to ensure that his or her proposal is delivered by the stated time. THE CITY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR INCOMPLETE UPLOADED SUBMITTALS.

A. Cover Letter

The cover letter will include the following:

- introduction of the firm signed by an authorized Principal of the firm
- name of firm
- address of firm
- phone number of the firm submitting the proposal
- include the name and signature of an authorized binding official who is authorized to answer questions regarding the firm's proposal

B. Qualifications and Experience of Firm and/or Team

- All respondents shall describe other contracts (at least 5, but no more than 10) similar in scope, size, or discipline to the required services described herein, performed or undertaken within the past five years.
- The respondent must provide references, including name, address, and telephone number of a contact person for each project identified and described.
- Indicate commencement dates, duration, and type of operation.
- Provide a list of all Municipal clients in Illinois.

C. Area/Regional Manager(s)

Clearly identify the professional staff person(s) who would be assigned as your Area/Regional Manager(s) and provide resumes. The proposal should indicate the abilities, qualifications, and experience of these individuals.

D. Fees

Provide a copy of your fees/prices on the attached Summary of Annual Proposed Fees form (see page 20).

E. Contract

The City has attached its standard contract in Exhibit J (see page 35– Professional Services Agreement). Identify all exceptions to the agreement that would prevent your Firm from executing it. The City shall not consider or negotiate regarding exceptions submitted at any time after the submission of the Proposer's response.

5.0 ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following material is required to be received by September 10, 2026 2:00 pm for a proposing firm to be considered:

1. Title Page
State the RFP subject.
2. Table of Contents

Clearly identify the material by section and page number.

3. Letter of Transmittal

Briefly outline and summarize the key elements of the proposal as to experience, qualifications, references, technical expertise, audit standards, understanding of the work to be performed, timing and fee.

4. Profile of the Proposer

- a. Describe the types of services provided.
- b. State the location of the office and the total number of Partners and professional staff from that office.
- c. Identify the Partners, Managers/Supervisors and In-Charge Accountants who will perform the audit. Include resumes for each person listed detailing educational background, years of experience and client names for audits similar to the proposed examination.
- d. Describe firm audit experience like the proposed examination. (Multi-office firms should discuss experience for only the office of the firm from which the personnel will be assigned.) Provide client names, contact persons and telephone numbers of all municipal audit clients who have been served in the last two years – at least five references shall be provided. Please also provide a recent Annual Financial Report for one of the referenced firms.
- e. Discuss governmental industry experience in terms of years of service, training, organizational involvement, etc.

5. Audit Process

- a. Describe your audit approach.
- b. Detail the amount of time to be put in on the audit by the following categories:

	<u>Percent</u>
Partner/Manager	_____
In-Charge Accountants (Senior)	_____
Staff Accountants (Junior)	_____
Total	100%

6. Fees and Billings

- a. It is the intention of the City to retain the same audit firm for a minimum of 5 years. Provide a maximum “not-to-exceed” fee proposal for the first year inclusive of all expenses and for the following four years.
- b. Describe the circumstances under which you would propose to increase the fee and how you would communicate such a potential increase to the City.

6.0 M/W/D/EBE GOALS

The City has a goal of 25% of the contract amount for the participation and utilization of Minority-Owned, Women-Owned, Disadvantaged, and Evanston-based businesses (M/W/D/EBEs) in completing a portion of the services required by the City. All respondents must submit a statement of the proposed involvement of M/W/D/EBEs in completing a portion of the required services. Provide a copy of the certification for M/W/D/EBEs that will assist in achieving the M/W/D/EBE goal with your submittal, as well as the appropriate M/W/D/EBE forms or Request for Waiver. Any questions regarding M/W/D/EBE compliance should be submitted in writing to Tammi Nunez, Purchasing Manager at tnunez@cityofevanston.org.

7.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The City will select the successful firm through an evaluation process based on the firm meeting the specifications, which are outlined in this RFP. A review committee will review in detail all proposals that are received. During the evaluation process, the City may require a Proposer's representative to answer questions with regard to the proposal and/or make a formal presentation to the review committee. The review committee will make a recommendation to award the contract based on the criteria set forth below. This contract will be forwarded to the City Council for final approval.

The evaluation criteria listed below will be used in the selection of the successful Proposer.

- A.** Qualifications and Expertise
- B.** Price
- C.** Organization and Completeness of Proposal
- D.** Willingness to Execute the City of Evanston's Professional Services Agreement
- E.** M/W/D/EBE Participation

8.0 SELECTION PROCESS

The City will select a firm on the basis of the responsiveness of the proposal to the RFP submittal requirements, the evaluation criteria stated above and the demonstrated willingness to execute an acceptable written contract. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, and to request written clarification of proposals and supporting materials from the Proposer.

While it is the intent of the City to award a single firm, the City reserves the right to award in part or in whole and to select multiple firms and/or individuals, depending on whichever decision is deemed to be most advantageous to the City.

Responses may be rejected if the firm fails to perform any of the following:

- A.** Adhere to one or more of the provisions established in this Request for Proposal.
- B.** Demonstrate competence, experience, and the ability to provide the services described in this Request for Proposal.

- C. Submit a response on or before the deadline and complete all required forms.
- D. To fulfill a request for an oral presentation.
- E. To respond to a written request for additional information.

Discussions and/or interviews may be conducted with responsible firms that have submitted proposals in order to clarify certain elements. All proposals shall be afforded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for clarification. In conducting a discussion, there shall be no disclosure of information derived from proposals submitted by competing firms. The selection shall be done by the City's review committee and will be recommended to the City Council for final approval.

If the City is unable to reach any sort of agreement with the selected firm, the City will discontinue negotiations with the selected firm and begin negotiations with the firm ranked second, and so on until an agreement is reached.

The firm to be recommended to the City Council will be the one whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the City in consideration of price, and all other evaluation factors which are set forth in this Request for Proposal. No other factors or criteria not listed in this RFP shall be used in the evaluation.

9.0 PROPOSED SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule for this RFP and project process is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. RFP issued | <u>August 13, 2026</u> |
| 2. Last Day to submit questions | <u>August 24, 2026</u> |
| 3. Final Addendum Issued | <u>August 31, 2026</u> |
| 4. RFP Submission Due Date | <u>September 10, 2026</u> |
| 5. City Council Award of Contract | <u>October 12, 2026</u> |
| 6. Contract Effective | <u>December 01, 2026</u> |

10.0 QUESTIONS REGARDING RFP

All questions related to this RFP should be submitted in writing to Cheryl Stuart, Purchasing Specialist at cstuart@cityofevanston.org with a copy to Jess Bennett, jbennett@cityofevanston.org and Hitesh Desai hdesai@cityofevanston.org

11.0 GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. Confidentiality

In connection with this Agreement, City may provide Consultant with information to enable Consultant to render the Services hereunder, or Consultant may develop confidential information for City. Consultant agrees (i) to treat, and to obligate Consultant's employees to treat, as secret and confidential all such information whether or not identified by City as confidential, (ii) not to disclose any such information or make available any reports, recommendations and /or conclusions which Consultant may make for City to any person, firm or corporation or use the same in any manner whatsoever without first obtaining City's written approval, and (iii) not to disclose to City any information obtained by Consultant on a confidential basis from any third party unless Consultant shall have first received written permission from such third party to disclose such information.

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/7(2), records in the possession of others whom the City has contracted with to perform a governmental function are covered by the Act and subject to disclosure within limited statutory timeframes (five (5) working days with a possible five (5) working day extension). Upon notification from the City that it has received a Freedom of Information Act request that calls for records within the Consultant's control, the Consultant shall promptly provide all requested records to the City so that the City may comply with the request within the required timeframe. The City and the Consultant shall cooperate to determine what records are subject to such a request and whether or not any exemption to the disclosure of such records or part thereof is applicable.

The Purchasing Specialist will endeavor to advise the firm of any request for the disclosure of the material so marked with "TRADE SECRET", "CONFIDENTIAL", or "PROPRIETARY", and give the firm or other submitting party the opportunity to seek a court order to protect such materials from disclosure. If the requested material was submitted by a party other than the firm, then the firm shall be solely responsible for notifying the submitting party of the request. The City's sole responsibility is to notify the firm of the request for disclosure, and the City shall not be liable for any damages resulting from such disclosure, whether such disclosure is deemed required by law, by an order of court or administrative agency, or occurs through inadvertence, mistake, negligence on the part of the City or its officers or employees.

B. Withdrawal of Proposal

Proposals may be withdrawn prior to the submittal deadline. Withdrawal may be attained by written request; however, no offer can be withdrawn within the ninety (90) day period that occurs after the time is set for closing. Proposers who withdraw their proposals prior to the designated date and time may still submit another proposal if done in accordance with the proper time frame.

C. Exceptions to Specifications

Exceptions to these specifications shall be listed and explained on a separate page titled "Exceptions to Specifications", which shall be prepared by the Proposer. This page shall then be attached to these documents and submitted at the same time as the proposal. Each exception must refer to the page number and paragraph to which it is relevant. The nature and reasoning of each exception shall be explained in its entirety. Any exceptions to these specifications may be cause for rejection of the proposal.

D. Hold Harmless

Consultant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City and its officers, elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees from any and all liability, losses, or damages as a result of claims, demands, suits, actions, or proceedings of any kind or nature, including but not limited to costs, and fees, including attorney's fees, judgments or settlements, resulting from or arising out of any negligent or willful act or omission on the part of the Consultant or Consultant's sub-contractors, employees, agents or sub-contractors during the performance of this Agreement. Such indemnification shall not be limited by reason of the

enumeration of any insurance coverage herein provided. This provision shall survive completion, expiration, or termination of this Agreement.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting the City, or its officers, agents, or employees, from defending through the selection and use of their own agents, attorneys, and experts, any claims, actions or suits brought against them. The Consultant shall be liable for the costs, fees, and expenses incurred in the defense of any such claims, actions, or suits. Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation or waiver of defenses available to the City and employees and agents, including but not limited to the Illinois Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, 745 ILCS 10/1-101 *et seq.*

At the City Corporation Counsel's option, Consultant must defend all suits brought upon all such Losses and must pay all costs and expenses incidental to them, but the City has the right, at its option, to participate, at its own cost, in the defense of any suit, without relieving Consultant of any of its obligations under this Agreement. Any settlement of any claim or suit related to this Agreement by Consultant must be made only with the prior written consent of the City Corporation Counsel, if the settlement requires any action on the part of the City.

To the extent permissible by law, Consultant waives any limits to the amount of its obligations to indemnify, defend, or contribute to any sums due under any Losses, including any claim by any employee of Consultant that may be subject to the Illinois Workers Compensation Act, 820 ILCS 305/1 *et seq.* or any other related law or judicial decision, including but not limited to, *Kotecki v. Cyclops Welding Corporation*, 146 Ill. 2d 155 (1991). The City, however, does not waive any limitations it may have on its liability under the Illinois Workers Compensation Act, the Illinois Pension Code or any other statute.

Consultant shall be responsible for any losses and costs to repair or remedy work performed under this Agreement resulting from or arising out of any act or omission, neglect, or misconduct in the performance of its Work or its sub-consultants' work. Acceptance of the work by the City will not relieve the Consultant of the responsibility for subsequent correction of any such error, omissions and/or negligent acts or of its liability for loss or damage resulting therefrom. All provisions of this Section shall survive completion, expiration, or termination of this Agreement.

E. Addenda

Any and all changes to these documents are valid only if they are included via a written addendum to all respondents. Each respondent should acknowledge receipt of any addenda by indicating the same in their proposal submission. Each respondent acknowledging receipt of any addenda is responsible for the contents of the addenda and any changes to the proposal therein. Failure to acknowledge any addenda may cause the proposal to be rejected. Addenda information is available over the internet at [City of Evanston Notices & Documents](#) or www.demandstar.com, or by contacting the Purchasing Office, 847-866-2935.

F. Term

The contract is to audit the City's financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, with the option of auditing its financial statements for each of the four subsequent fiscal years ending December. The City may terminate a contract for either cause or convenience.

G. Non-Appropriation of Funds

The City of Evanston reserves the right to terminate in whole or in part of the contract in the event that insufficient funds to complete the contract are appropriated by Evanston City Council.

H. Property of the City

All discoveries and documents produced as a result of any service or project undertaken on behalf of the City of Evanston shall become the property of the City.

I. Payment Terms

The consultant shall submit invoices detailing the services provided, project, professional staff, and hours. Payment shall be made in accordance with the Local Government Prompt Payment Act. Please note that failure to provide a detailed invoice could result in delay of payment and the termination of any agreement.

J. Disclosures and Potential Conflicts of Interest

The City of Evanston's Code of Ethics prohibits public officials or employees from performing or participating in an official act or action with regard to a transaction in which he has or knows he will thereafter acquire an interest for profit, without full public disclosure of such interest. This disclosure requirement extends to the spouse, children, and grandchildren, and their spouses, parents, and the parents of a spouse, and brothers and sisters and their spouses.

To ensure full and fair consideration of all proposals, the City of Evanston requires all Proposers, including owners or employees, to investigate whether a potential or actual conflict of interest exists between the Proposer and the City of Evanston, its officials, and/or employees. If the Proposer discovers a potential or actual conflict of interest, the Proposer must disclose the conflict of interest in its proposal, identifying the name of the City of Evanston official or employee with whom the conflict may exist, the nature of the conflict of interest, and any other relevant information. The existence of a potential or actual conflict of interest does NOT, on its own, disqualify the disclosing Proposer from consideration. Information provided by Proposers in this regard will allow the City of Evanston to take appropriate measures to ensure the fairness of the proposal process.

The City requires all Proposers to submit a certification, enclosed with this RFP, that the Proposer has conducted the appropriate investigation and disclosed all potential or actual conflicts of interest.

K. Protests

Any actual or prospective Proposer who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of a contract may protest to the Purchasing Office. The protest shall be submitted in writing within ten (10) calendar days after such aggrieved person knows or should have known of the facts giving rise thereto.

- The Proposer shall submit any protests or claims regarding this solicitation to the Purchasing Office.
- A pre-bid protest must be filed five (5) days before the bid opening or proposal submittal.
- A pre-award protest must be filed no later than ten (10) days after the bid opening date or proposal deadline.
- A post-award protest must be filed no later than ten (10) days after the award of the Contract.

All claims by a Proposer against the City relating to a contract shall be submitted in writing to the Purchasing Specialist. The City will only consider protests that are properly and timely submitted.

All protests or claims must set forth the name and address of the protester, the contract number, the grounds for the protest or claim, and the course of action that the protesting party desires the Purchasing Specialist to take. Statements shall be sworn and submitted under penalty of perjury.

L. Authority To Resolve Protests And Contract Claims

Protests: The Purchasing Specialist shall have the authority to consider and resolve a protest of an aggrieved Proposer, actual or prospective, concerning the solicitation or award of a contract. The City shall issue a written decision, and that decision is final.

Contract Claims: The Purchasing Specialist, after consulting with Corporation Counsel, shall have the authority to resolve contract claims, subject to the approval of the City Manager or City Council, as applicable, regarding any settlement that will result in a change order or contract modification.

Each Proposer, by submitting a response to this RFP, expressly recognizes the limitations on its rights to protest provided in this Section and expressly waives all other rights and remedies and agrees that the decision on the protest is final and conclusive. If a Proposer disregards, disputes or does not follow the exclusive protest remedies provided in this Section, it shall indemnify and hold the City and its officers, employees, agents and consultants harmless from and against all liabilities, fees and costs, including legal and consultant fees and costs, and damages incurred or suffered as a result of such Proposer's actions. Each Proposer, by submitting a response to this RFP, shall be deemed to have irrevocably and unconditionally agreed to this indemnity obligation.

M. Litigation

For purposes of this Section, the following terms are defined as follows:

“issue” means any prior or pending litigation or investigation, either civil or criminal, or any governmental agency action or proceeding (the “issue”), which may affect the performance of the services to be rendered herein. For purposes of this Section, an “issue” shall also include any criminal, civil, or administrative penalty or finding imposed against any covered individual. An issue occurring within seven (7) years of the date preceding the date of the Proposer’s response shall be disclosed by the Proposer.

“covered individual” means any principal, president, managing partner, or vice-president, affiliated in any way with the Firm, and the Firm’s employees or sub-contractors.

All proposers shall identify and describe with particularity any issue. The City, and not Proposer, has the sole discretion to determine whether an issue may affect the performance of the services. Failure of any Proposer to comply with this mandatory obligation shall, at the City’s sole discretion, result in the Proposer’s response being deemed non-responsive and not responsible. Failure of any Proposer to comply with the obligation specified herein may result in the voiding of any subsequent contract award to Proposer if the City discovers upon the exercise of its customary due diligence that Proposer failed to comply with the mandatory obligation in this Section. The City reserves all rights to take any other actions in the case of a Proposer’s non-compliance with this Section.

N. Sub-contractors

If any firm submitting a proposal intends on sub-contracting out all or any portion of the engagement, that fact, and the name of the proposed sub-contracting firm(s) must be clearly disclosed in the proposal. Following the award of the contract, no additional sub-contracting will be allowed without the prior written consent of the City of Evanston.

O. Contact with City Personnel

All Proposers are prohibited from making any contact with the City Manager, City Council, or any other official or employee of the City with regard to the Project, other than in the manner and to the person(s) designated herein. The Purchasing Specialist reserves the right to disqualify any Proposer found to have contacted City Personnel in any manner with regard to the Project. Additionally, if it is determined that the contact with City Personnel was in violation of any provision of 720 ILCS 5/33EE, the matter may be referred to the Cook County State’s Attorney for review and prosecution.

P. Costs Incurred

The City of Evanston assumes no responsibility or liability for costs incurred by the Proposer prior to the execution of a contract. This includes costs incurred by the Proposer as a result of preparing a response to this RFP.

City of Evanston

Summary of Annual Proposed Fees

	Fiscal Year - ending December 31				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Audit and Financial Statements (ACFR)	_____	_____	_____	_____	
TIF Compliance Report	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Single Audit Report Fees	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Annual Report for the State of IL (AFR)	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Total Fees	_____	_____	_____	_____	

Exhibit A

DISCLOSURE OF OWNERSHIP INTERESTS

The City of Evanston Code Section 1-18-1 *et seq.* requires all persons (APPLICANT) seeking to do business with the City to provide the following information with their proposal. Every question must be answered. If the question is not applicable, answer with "NA".

APPLICANT NAME: _____

APPLICANT ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

FAX NUMBER: _____

APPLICANT is (**Check One**)

☐ Corporation

☐ Partnership

☐ Sole Owner

☐ Association

Other () _____

Please answer the following questions on a separate attached sheet if necessary.

SECTION I - CORPORATION

1a. Names and addresses of all Officers and Directors of the Corporation.

1b. (**Answer only if corporation has 33 or more shareholders.**)

Names and addresses of all those shareholders owning shares equal to or in excess of 3% of the proportionate ownership interest and the percentage of shareholder interest. (Note: Corporations which submit S.E.C. form 10K may substitute that statement for the material required herein.)

- 1c. **(Answer only if the corporation has fewer than 33 shareholders.)**
Names and addresses of all shareholders and the percentage of interest of each are herein. (Note: Corporations which submit S.E.C. form 10K may substitute that statement for the material requested herein.)

SECTION 2 - PARTNERSHIP/ASSOCIATION/JOINT VENTURE

- 2a. The name, address, and percentage of interest of each partner whose interests therein, whether limited or general, are equal to or in excess of 3%.

- 2b. Associations: The name and address of all officers, directors, and other members with 3% or greater interest.

SECTION 3 - TRUSTS

- 3a. Trust number and institution.

- 3b. Name and address of trustee or estate administrator.

- 3c. Trust or estate beneficiaries: Name, address, and percentage of interest in total entity.

SECTION 4 - ALL APPLICANTS - ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE

- 4a. Specify which, if any, interests disclosed in Sections 1, 2, or 3 are being held by an agent or nominee, and give the name and address of the principal.

- 4b. If any interest named in Section 1,2, or 3 is being held by a "holding" corporation or other "holding" entity not an individual, state the names and addresses of all parties holding more than a 3% interest in that "holding" corporation or entity as required in 1(a), 1(b), 1(c), 2(a), and 2(b).

- 4c. If "constructive control" of any interest named in Sections 1,2, 3, or 4 is held by another party, give name and address of party with constructive control. ("Constructive control" refers to control established through voting trusts, proxies, or special terms of venture of partnership agreements.)

I have not withheld disclosure of any interest known to me. Information provided is accurate and current.

Date

Signature of Person Preparing Statement

Title

ATTEST: _____
Notary Public
(Notary Seal)

Commission Expires: _____

EXHIBIT B

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SHEET

Proposal Name: _____

Proposal Number #: _____

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone/FAX: # _____

E-mail: _____

Comments: _____

Exhibit C

CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM

_____, hereby certifies that it has conducted an investigation into whether an actual or potential conflict of interest exists between the bidder, its owners and employees and any official or employee of the City of Evanston.

Proposer further certifies that it has disclosed any such actual or potential conflict of interest and acknowledges that if the bidder/Proposer has not disclosed any actual or potential conflict of interest, the City of Evanston may disqualify the bid/proposal.

(Name of Bidder/Proposer if the Bidder/Proposer is an Individual)
(Name of Partner if the Bidder/Proposer is a Partnership)
(Name of Officer if the Bidder/Proposer is a Corporation)

The above statements must be subscribed and sworn to before a notary public. Subscribed and Sworn to this _____ day of _____, 20

Notary Public

Failure to complete and return this form may be considered sufficient reason for rejection of the bid / proposal.

Exhibit D

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

THE SECTION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL AND SIGNED

The undersigned hereby certifies that they have read and understand the contents of this solicitation and attached service agreements and agree to furnish at the prices shown any or all of the items above, subject to all instructions, conditions, specifications, and attachments hereto. Failure to have read all the provisions of this solicitation shall not be cause to alter any resulting contract or to accept any request for additional compensation. By signing this document, the Proposer hereby certifies that they are not barred from bidding on this contract as a result of bid rigging, bid rotating, or any similar offense (720 ILCS S/33E-3, 33E-4).

**Authorized
Signature:**

**Company
Name:**

**Typed/Printed
Name:**

Date:

Title:

**Telephone
Number:**

Email:

**Fax
Number:**

Exhibit E

ANTI-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT AND PROPOSER'S CERTIFICATION

_____, being first duly sworn,

deposes and says that he is _____
(Partner, Officer, Owner, Etc.)

of _____
(Proposer)

The party making the foregoing proposal or bid, that such bid is genuine and not collusive, or sham; that said bidder has not colluded, conspired, connived or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any bidder or person, to put in a sham bid or to refrain from bidding, and has not in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement or collusion, or communication or conference with any person; to fix the bid price element of said bid, or of that of any other bidder, or to secure any advantage against any other bidder or any person interested in the proposed contract.

The undersigned certifies that he is not barred from bidding on this contract as a result of a conviction for the violation of State laws prohibiting bid-rigging or bid-rotating.

(Name of Bidder if the Bidder is an Individual)
(Name of Partner if the Bidder is a Partnership)
(Name of Officer if the Bidder is a Corporation)

The above statements must be subscribed and sworn to before a notary public.

Subscribed and Sworn to this _____ day of _____, 20

Notary Public

Commission Expires: _____

Failure to complete and return this form may be considered sufficient reason for rejection of the bid.

EXHIBIT F

CITY OF EVANSTON M/W/D/EBE POLICY

A City of Evanston goal is to provide contracting and sub-contracting opportunities to Minority Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, Disadvantaged and Evanston Business Enterprises. The goal of the Minority, Women, Disadvantaged and Evanston Business Enterprise Program (M/W/D/EBE) is to assist such businesses with opportunities to grow. To assist such growth, the City's goal is to have general contractors utilize M/W/D/EBEs to perform no less than 25% of the awarded contract.

Firms bidding on projects with the City must work to meet the 25% goal or request a waiver from participation. It is advised that bidders place advertisements requesting sub-contractors and that they email or contact individual firms that would be appropriate to partner in response to the project. For samples of possible advertisements, see the City of Evanston's Business Diversity Section <http://www.cityofevanston.org/business/business-diversity/> ([Sample Advertisement](#))

If a bidder is unable to meet the required M/W/D/EBE goal, the Bidder must seek a waiver or modification of the goal on the attached forms. Bidder must include:

1. A narrative describing the Bidder's efforts to secure M/W/D/EBE participation prior to the bid opening.
2. Documentation of each of the assist agencies that were contacted, the date and individual who was contacted, and the result of the conversation (see form)
3. A letter attesting to instances where the bidder has not received inquiries/proposals from qualified M/W/D/EBEs
4. Names of owners, addresses, telephone numbers, date and time and method of contact of qualified M/W/D/EBE who submitted a proposal but was not found acceptable.
5. Names of owners, addresses, telephone numbers, date and time of contact of at least 15 qualified M/W/D/EBEs the bidder solicited for proposals for work directly related to the Bid prior to the bid opening (copies must be attached).

If a bidder is selected with a Sub-contractor listed to meet the M/W/D/EBE goal, a "monthly utilization report" will be due to the City prior to each payment being issued to the Contractor. This report will include documentation of the name of the firm hired, the type of work that firm performed, etc. Should the M/W/D/EBE not be paid according to the schedule proposed in this document, the City reserves the right to cancel the contract. Examples of this monthly form can be found on the City's website: <http://www.cityofevanston.org/business/business-diversity/> ([MWDEBE Monthly Utilization Report](#)).

EXHIBIT G

M/W/D/EBE PARTICIPATION COMPLIANCE FORM

I do hereby certify that

_____ (Name of firm) intends to participate as a Subcontractor or General Contractor on the project referenced above.

This firm is a (check only one):

- _____ Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), a firm that is at least 51% managed and controlled by a minority, certified by a certifying agency within Illinois.
- _____ Women's Business Enterprise (WBE), a firm that is at least 51% managed and controlled by a woman, certified by a certifying agency within Illinois.
- _____ Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), a firm that is at least 51% managed and controlled by a disadvantaged, certified by a certifying agency within Illinois.
- _____ Evanston Based Enterprise (EBE), a firm located in Evanston for a minimum of one year and which performs a "commercially useful function".

Total proposed price of response \$ _____

Amount to be performed by a M/W/D/EBE \$ _____

Percentage of work to be performed by a M/W/D/EBE _____ %

Information on the M/W/D/EBE Utilized:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Signature of firm attesting to participation _____

Title and Date _____

Type of work to be performed _____

Please attach:

1. Proper certification documentation if applying as an M/W/D/EBE and check the appropriate box below. This M/W/D/EBE will be applying with documentation from:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Cook County | ☐ State of Illinois Certification |
| ☐ Federal Certification | ☐ Women's Business Enterprise National Council |
| ☐ City of Chicago | ☐ Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council |

2. Attach a business license if applying as an EBE

EXHIBIT G

M/W/D/EBE UTILIZATION SUMMARY REPORT

The following Schedule accurately reflects the value of each MBE/WBE/DBE/EBE sub-agreement, the amounts of money paid to each to date, and this Pay Request. The total proposed price of response submitted is _____.

MBE/WBE/DBE/EBE FIRM NAME	FIRM TYPE (MBE/WBE /DBE/EBE)	SERVICES PERFORMED	AMOUNT OF SUB- CONTRACT	PERCENT OF TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
TOTAL			\$	

Exhibit H

M/W/D/EBE PARTICIPATION WAIVER REQUEST

I am _____ of _____, and I have authority to
(Title) (Name of Firm)
execute this certification on behalf of the firm. I _____ do
(Name)

hereby certify that this firm seeks to waive all or part of this M/W/D/EBE participation goal
for the following reason(s):

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY. SPECIFIC SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION MUST BE ATTACHED.)

- _____ 1. No M/W/D/EBEs responded to our invitation to bid.
- _____ 2. An insufficient number of firms responded to our invitation to bid.
For #1 & 2, please provide a narrative describing the outreach efforts from your firm and proof of contacting at least 15 qualified M/W/D/EBEs prior to the bid opening. Also, please attach the accompanying form with notes regarding contacting the Assist Agencies.
- _____ 3. No sub-contracting opportunities exist.
Please attach a written explanation of why sub-contracting is not feasible. Please provide details supporting your request.
- _____ 4. M/W/D/EBE participation is impracticable.
Please attach a written explanation of why M/W/D/EBE participation is impracticable. Please provide details supporting your request.

Therefore, we request to waive _____ of the 25% utilization goal for a revised goal of _____%.

Signature: _____
(Signature)

Date: _____

EXHIBIT I

M/W/D/EBE Assistance Organizations (“Assist Agencies”) Form

AGENCY	DATE CONTACTED	CONTACT PERSON	RESULT OF CONVERSATION
Association of Asian Construction Enterprises (AACE) 5500 Touhy Ave., Unit K Skokie, IL. 60077 Phone: 847-525-9693 Perry Nakachii, President			
Black Contractors United (BCU) 400 W. 76th Street Chicago, IL 60620 Phone: 773-483-4000; Fax: 773-483-4150 Email: bcunewera@ameritech.net			
Chicago Minority Business Development Council 105 West Adams Street Chicago, Illinois 60603 Phone: 312-755-8880; Fax: 312-755-8890 Email: info@chicagomsdc.org Shelia Hill, President			
Evanston Minority Business Consortium, Inc. P.O. Box 5683 Evanston, Illinois 60204 Phone: 847-492-0177 Email: embcinc@aol.com			
Federation of Women Contractors 5650 S. Archer Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60638 Phone: 312-360-1122; Fax: 312-360-0239 Email: FWCChicago@aol.com Contact Person: Beth Doria Maureen Jung, President			
Hispanic American Construction Industry (HACIA) 901 W. Jackson, Suite 205 Chicago, IL 60607 Phone: 312-666-5910; Fax: 312-666-5692 Email: info@haciaworks.org			
Women’s Business Development Ctr. 8 S. Michigan Ave, Suite 400 Chicago, Illinois 60603 Phone: 312-853-3477 X220; Fax: 312-853-0145 Email: wbdc@wbdc.org Carol Dougal, Director			

PLEASE NOTE: Use of M/W/D/EBE Assistance Organizations (“Assist Agencies”) Form and agencies are for use as a resource only. The agencies and or vendors listed are not referrals or recommendations by the City of Evanston.

Exhibit J

Professional Services Agreement Acknowledgment Page

The City has attached its standard professional services agreement as an exhibit to this RFP. Identify all exceptions to the agreement that would prevent your firm from executing it. **The City shall not consider or negotiate regarding exceptions submitted at any time after the submission of the Proposer's response.** *Please check one of the following statements:*

____ I have read the professional services agreement and plan on executing the agreement without any exceptions.

____ My firm cannot execute the City's standard professional service agreement unless the exceptions noted below or in the attached sample professional services agreement are made. *****Please be aware that submitting exceptions to the contract may impact the likelihood of your firm being selected to perform this work.**

List exceptions in the area below:

Authorized
Signature: _____

Company
Name: _____

Typed/Printed
Name and Title: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit J

Consultant Certification and Verification

I certify in accordance with the Professional Services Agreement, the agents, employees, and subcontractors of [CONSULTANT FIRM] are in compliance and will comply with City work rules and policies applicable to City employees while they are on City property, including the City's Workplace Harassment Policy; COVID-19 Vaccination Policy; and Sexual Harassment Policy. I further certify that the agents, employees, and subcontractors of [CONSULTANT FIRM] are in compliance with the OSHA emergency temporary standard to protect workers from coronavirus.

CONSULTANT:

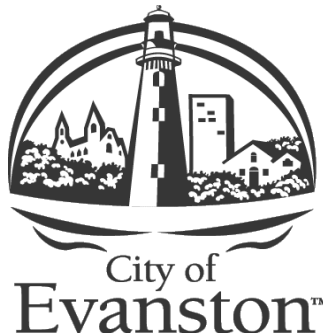
By _____

Its: _____

FEIN Number: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit J



CITY OF EVANSTON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

The parties referenced herein desire to enter into an agreement for professional services for

*PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES
FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING 12/31
2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030
RFP Number: 26-43*

THIS AGREEMENT (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") entered into this ____ day of _____, 20____, between the City of Evanston, an Illinois municipal corporation with offices located at 909 Davis Street, Evanston Illinois 60201 (hereinafter referred to as the "City"), and [Insert Professional Service Provider's name here], with offices located at [Insert address here], (hereinafter referred to as the "Consultant"). Compensation for all basic Services ("the Services") provided by the Consultant pursuant to the terms of this Agreement shall not exceed [\$[Insert fee here]].

I. COMMENCEMENT DATE

Consultant shall commence the Services on _____ or no later than **three (3) DAYS AFTER** City executes and delivers this Agreement to Consultant.

II. COMPLETION DATE

Consultant shall complete the Services by _____. If this Agreement provides for renewals after an initial term, no renewal shall begin until agreed to in writing by both parties prior to the completion date of this Agreement.

III. PAYMENTS

City shall pay Consultant those fees as provided here: Payment shall be made upon the completion of each task for a project, as set forth in Exhibit A –

Project Milestones and Deliverables. Any expenses in addition to those set forth here must be specifically approved by the City in writing in advance.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Consultant shall perform the services (the “Services”) set forth here: Services are those as defined in Exhibit A, the City’s Request for **Proposal/Qualifications** No. # **26-43 (Exhibit B) and Consultant’s Response to the Proposal (Exhibit C)**. Services may include, if any, other documented discussions and agreements regarding the scope of work and cost (Exhibit D).

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Services. Consultant shall perform the Services in a professional and workmanlike manner. All Services performed and documentation (regardless of format) provided by Consultant shall be in accordance with the standards of reasonable care and skill of the profession, free from errors or omissions, ambiguities, coordination problems, and other defects. Consultant shall take into account any and all applicable plans and/or specifications furnished by City, or by others at City’s direction or request, to Consultant during the term of this Agreement. All materials, buildings, structures, or equipment designed or selected by Consultant shall be workable and fit for the intended use thereof, and will comply with all applicable governmental requirements. Consultant shall require its employees to observe the working hours, rules, security regulations and holiday schedules of City while working and to perform its Services in a manner which does not unreasonably interfere with the City’s business and operations, or the business and operations of other tenants and occupants in the City which may be affected by the work relative to this Agreement. Consultant shall take all necessary precautions to assure the safety of its employees who are engaged in the performance of the Services, all equipment and supplies used in connection therewith, and all property of City or other parties that may be affected in connection therewith. If requested by City, Consultant shall promptly replace any employee or agent performing the Services if, in the opinion of the City, the performance of the employee or agent is unsatisfactory.

Consultant is responsible for conforming its final work product to generally accepted professional standards for all work performed pursuant to this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement accords any third-party beneficiary rights whatsoever to any non-party to this Agreement that any non-party may seek to enforce. Consultant acknowledges and agrees that should Consultant or its sub-consultants provide false information, or fail to be or remain in compliance with this Agreement; the City may void this Agreement. The Consultant warrants and states that it has read the Contract Documents, and agrees to be bound thereby, including all performance guarantees as respects Consultant’s work and all indemnity and insurance requirements.

The Consultant shall obtain prior approval from the City prior to sub-contracting with any entity or person to perform any of the work required under this Agreement. If the Consultant sub-contracts any of the services to be performed under this Agreement, the sub-consultant agreement shall provide that the services to be performed under any such agreement shall not be sublet, sold, transferred, assigned or otherwise disposed of to another entity or person without the City's prior written consent. The Consultant shall be responsible for the accuracy and quality of any sub-consultant's work.

All sub-consultant agreements shall include verbatim or by reference the provisions in this Agreement binding upon Consultant as to all Services provided by this Agreement, such that it is binding upon each and every sub-consultant that does work or provides Services under this Agreement.

The Consultant shall cooperate fully with the City, other City contractors, other municipalities and local government officials, public utility companies, and others, as may be directed by the City. This shall include attendance at meetings, discussions and hearings as requested by the City. This cooperation shall extend to any investigation, hearings or meetings convened or instituted by the City, any of its departments, and/or OSHA relative to this Project, as necessary. Consultant shall cooperate with the City in scheduling and performing its Work to avoid conflict, delay in or interference with the work of others, if any, at the Project.

Except as otherwise provided herein, the nature and scope of Services specified in this Agreement may only be modified by a writing approved by both parties. This Agreement may be modified or amended from time to time provided, however, that no such amendment or modification shall be effective unless reduced to writing and duly authorized and signed by the authorized representatives of the parties.

- B. Representation and Warranties.** Consultant represents and warrants that: (1) Consultant possesses and will keep in force all required licenses to perform the Services; (2) the employees of Consultant performing the Services are fully qualified, licensed as required, and skilled to perform the Services.
- C. Breach/Default.** Any one of the following events shall be deemed an event of default hereunder by Consultant, subject to Consultant's right to cure:
1. Failure to perform the Services as defined in Paragraph A above and contained within Exhibit A;
 2. Failure to comply with any other of the General Provisions contained within this contract.

Consultant, within thirty (30) days, shall have the right to cure any default herein listed at its own expense, including completion of Services or the replacement or termination of any agent, employee, or sub-contractor as a result of any

violation of the General Provisions contained herein.

- D. Remedy.** City does not waive any right to exercise any option to cure any breach or default on the part of contractor, including but not limited to injunctive relief, an action in law or equity or termination of this Agreement as outlined in Paragraph E of this section.
- E. Termination.** City may, at any time, with or without cause, terminate this Agreement upon seven (7) days written notice to Consultant. If the City terminates this agreement, the City will make payment to Consultant for Services performed prior to termination. Payments made by the City pursuant to this Agreement are subject to sufficient appropriations made by the City of Evanston City Council. In the event of termination resulting from non-appropriation or insufficient appropriation by the City Council, the City's obligations hereunder shall cease and there shall be no penalty or further payment required. In the event of an emergency or threat to the life, safety or welfare of the citizens of the City, the City shall have the right terminate this Agreement without prior written notice. Within thirty (30) days of termination of this Agreement, the Consultant shall turn over to the City any documents, drafts, and materials, including but not limited to, outstanding work product, data, studies, test results, source documents, AutoCAD Version 2007, PDF, ARTView, Word, Excel spreadsheets, technical specifications and calculations, and any other such items specifically identified by the City related to the Services herein.
- F. Independent Consultant.** Consultant's status shall be that of an independent Consultant and not that of a servant, agent, or employee of City. Consultant shall not hold Consultant out, nor claim to be acting, as a servant, agent or employee of City. Consultant is not authorized to, and shall not, make or undertake any agreement, understanding, waiver or representation on behalf of City. Consultant shall at its own expense comply with all applicable workers compensation, unemployment insurance, employer's liability, tax withholding, minimum wage and hour, and other federal, state, county and municipal laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and orders. Consultant shall require its employees to observe the working hours, rules, security regulations and holiday schedules of City, including but not limited to all policies and work rules applicable to City employees while on City property such as the Workplace Harassment Policy; COVID-19 Vaccination Policy; and Drug and Alcohol Policy. Consultant agrees to abide by the Occupational Safety & Health Act of 1970 (OSHA), and as the same may be amended from time to time, applicable state and municipal safety and health laws and all regulations pursuant thereto. Consultant shall certify that its agents, employees and subcontractors are in compliance with City work rules applicable to City employees while on City property. Failure to certify or violation of work rules is subject to the Default provisions of Paragraph C.
- G. Conflict of Interest.** Consultant represents and warrants that no prior or present services provided by Consultant to third parties conflict with the

interests of City in respect to the Services being provided hereunder except as shall have been expressly disclosed in writing by Consultant to City and consented to in writing to City.

- H. Ownership of Documents and Other Materials.** All originals, duplicates and negatives of all plans, drawings, reports, photographs, charts, programs, models, specimens, specifications, AutoCAD Version 2007, Excel spreadsheets, PDF, and other documents or materials required to be furnished by Consultant hereunder, including drafts and reproduction copies thereof, shall be and remain the exclusive property of City, and City shall have the unlimited right to publish and use all or any part of the same without payment of any additional royalty, charge, or other compensation to Consultant. Upon the termination of this Agreement, or upon request of City, during any stage of the Services, Consultant shall promptly deliver all such materials to City. Consultant shall not publish, transfer, license or, except in connection with carrying out obligations under this Agreement, use or reuse all or any part of such reports and other documents, including working pages, without the prior written approval of City, provided, however, that Consultant may retain copies of the same for Consultant's own general reference.
- I. Payment.** Invoices for payment shall be submitted by Consultant to City at the address set forth above, together with reasonable supporting documentation, City may require such additional supporting documentation as City reasonably deems necessary or desirable. Payment shall be made in accordance with the Illinois Local Government Prompt Payment Act, after City's receipt of an invoice and all such supporting documentation.
- J. Right to Audit.** Consultant shall for a period of three years following performance of the Services, keep and make available for the inspection, examination and audit by City or City's authorized employees, agents or representatives, at all reasonable time, all records respecting the services and expenses incurred by Consultant, including without limitation, all book, accounts, memoranda, receipts, ledgers, canceled checks, and any other documents indicating, documenting, verifying or substantiating the cost and appropriateness of any and all expenses. If any invoice submitted by Consultant is found to have been overstated, Consultant shall provide City an immediate refund of the overpayment together with interest at the highest rate permitted by applicable law, and shall reimburse all of City's expenses for and in connection with the audit respecting such invoice.
- K. Indemnity.** Consultant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City and its officers, elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees from any and all liability, losses, or damages as a result of claims, demands, suits, actions, or proceedings of any kind or nature, including but not limited to costs, and fees, including attorney's fees, judgments or settlements, resulting from or arising out of any negligent or willful act or omission on the part of the Consultant or Consultant's sub-contractors, employees, agents or sub-contractors during the performance of this Agreement. Such indemnification shall not be limited by

reason of the enumeration of any insurance coverage herein provided. This provision shall survive completion, expiration, or termination of this Agreement.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting the City, or its officers, agents, or employees, from defending through the selection and use of their own agents, attorneys, and experts, any claims, actions or suits brought against them. The Consultant shall be liable for the costs, fees, and expenses incurred in the defense of any such claims, actions, or suits. Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation or waiver of defenses available to the City and employees and agents, including but not limited to the Illinois Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, 745 ILCS 10/1-101 *et seq.*

At the City Corporation Counsel's option, Consultant must defend all suits brought upon all such Losses and must pay all costs and expenses incidental to them, but the City has the right, at its option, to participate, at its own cost, in the defense of any suit, without relieving Consultant of any of its obligations under this Agreement. Any settlement of any claim or suit related to this Agreement by Consultant must be made only with the prior written consent of the City Corporation Counsel, if the settlement requires any action on the part of the City.

To the extent permissible by law, Consultant waives any limits to the amount of its obligations to indemnify, defend, or contribute to any sums due under any Losses, including any claim by any employee of Consultant that may be subject to the Illinois Workers Compensation Act, 820 ILCS 305/1 *et seq.* or any other related law or judicial decision, including but not limited to, *Kotecki v. Cyclops Welding Corporation*, 146 Ill. 2d 155 (1991). The City, however, does not waive any limitations it may have on its liability under the Illinois Workers Compensation Act, the Illinois Pension Code or any other statute.

Consultant shall be responsible for any losses and costs to repair or remedy work performed under this Agreement resulting from or arising out of any act or omission, neglect, or misconduct in the performance of its Work or its sub-consultants' work. Acceptance of the work by the City will not relieve the Consultant of the responsibility for subsequent correction of any such error, omissions and/or negligent acts or of its liability for loss or damage resulting therefrom. All provisions of this Section shall survive completion, expiration, or termination of this Agreement.

- L. Insurance.** Consultant shall carry and maintain at its own cost with such companies as are reasonably acceptable to City all necessary liability insurance (which shall include as a minimum the requirements set forth below) during the term of this Agreement, for damages caused or contributed to by Consultant, and insuring Consultant against claims which may arise out of or result from Consultant's performance or failure to perform the Services hereunder: (1) worker's compensation in statutory limits and employer's liability insurance in the amount of at least \$500,000, (2) comprehensive general liability coverage, and designating City as additional insured for not less than \$3,000,000

combined single limit for bodily injury, death and property damage, per occurrence, (3) comprehensive automobile liability insurance covering owned, non-owned and leased vehicles for not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit for bodily injury, death or property damage, per occurrence, and (4) errors and omissions or professional liability insurance respecting any insurable professional services hereunder in the amount of at least \$1,000,000. Consultant shall give to the City certificates of insurance for all Services done pursuant to this Agreement before Consultant performs any Services, and, if requested by City, certified copies of the policies of insurance evidencing the coverage and amounts set forth in this Section. The City may also require Consultant to provide copies of the Additional Insured Endorsement to said policy (ies) which name the City as an Additional Insured for all of Consultant's Services and work under this Agreement. Any limitations or modification on the certificate of insurance issued to the City in compliance with this Section that conflict with the provisions of this Section shall have no force and effect. Consultant's certificate of insurance shall contain a provision that the coverage afforded under the policy(s) will not be canceled or reduced without thirty (30) days prior written notice (hand delivered or registered mail) to City. Consultant understands that the acceptance of certificates, policies and any other documents by the City in no way releases the Consultant and its sub-contractors from the requirements set forth herein. Consultant expressly agrees to waive its rights, benefits and entitlements under the "Other Insurance" clause of its commercial general liability insurance policy as respects the City. In the event Consultant fails to purchase or procure insurance as required above, the parties expressly agree that Consultant shall be in default under this Agreement, and that the City may recover all losses, attorney's fees and costs expended in pursuing a remedy or reimbursement, at law or in equity, against Consultant.

Consultant acknowledges and agrees that if it fails to comply with all requirements of this Section, that the City may void this Agreement.

- M. Confidentiality.** In connection with this Agreement, City may provide Consultant with information to enable Consultant to render the Services hereunder, or Consultant may develop confidential information for City. Consultant agrees (i) to treat, and to obligate Consultant's employees to treat, as secret and confidential all such information whether or not identified by City as confidential, (ii) not to disclose any such information or make available any reports, recommendations and /or conclusions which Consultant may make for City to any person, firm or corporation or use the same in any manner whatsoever without first obtaining City's written approval, and (iii) not to disclose to City any information obtained by Consultant on a confidential basis from any third party unless Consultant shall have first received written permission from such third party to disclose such information.

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/7(2), records in the possession of others whom the City has contracted with to perform a governmental function are covered by the Act and subject to disclosure within limited statutory timeframes (five (5) working days with a possible five (5) working day extension). Upon notification from the City that it has received a

Freedom of Information Act request that calls for records within the Consultant's control, the Consultant shall promptly provide all requested records to the City so that the City may comply with the request within the required timeframe. The City and the Consultant shall cooperate to determine what records are subject to such a request and whether or not any exemption to the disclosure of such records or part thereof is applicable. Vendor shall indemnify and defend the City from and against all claims arising from the City's exceptions to disclosing certain records which Vendor may designate as proprietary or confidential. Compliance by the City with an opinion or a directive from the Illinois Public Access Counselor or the Attorney General under FOIA, or with a decision or order of Court with jurisdiction over the City, shall not be a violation of this Section.

- N. Use of City's Name or Picture of Property.** Consultant shall not in the course of performance of this Agreement or thereafter use or permit the use of City's name nor the name of any affiliate of City, nor any picture of or reference to its Services in any advertising, promotional or other materials prepared by or on behalf of Consultant, nor disclose or transmit the same to any other party.
- O. No Assignments or Sub-contracts.** Consultant shall not assign or sub-contract all or any part or its rights or obligations hereunder without City's express prior written approval. Any attempt to do so without the City's prior consent shall, at City's option, be null and void and of no force or effect whatsoever. Consultant shall not employ, contract with, or use the services of any other architect, interior designer, engineer, consultant, special contractor, or other third party in connection with the performance of the Services without the prior written consent of City.
- P. Compliance with Applicable Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.** In performing the Services, Consultant shall comply with all applicable federal, state, county, and municipal statutes, ordinances and regulations, at Consultant's sole cost and expense, except to the extent expressly provided to the contrary herein. Whenever the City deems it reasonably necessary for security reasons, the City may conduct at its own expense, criminal and driver history background checks of Consultant's officers, employees, sub-contractors, or agents. Consultant shall immediately reassign any such individual who in the opinion of the City does not pass the background check.
- Q. Liens and Encumbrances.** Consultant, for itself, and on behalf of all sub-contractors, suppliers, materialmen and others claiming by, through or under Consultant, hereby waives and releases any and all statutory or common law mechanics' materialmen's' or other such lien claims, or rights to place a lien upon City property or any improvements thereon in connection with any Services performed under or in connection with this Agreement. Consultant further agrees, as and to the extent of payment made hereunder, to execute a sworn affidavit respecting the payment and lien releases of all sub-contractors, suppliers and materialmen, and a release of lien respecting the Services at such time or times and in such form as may be reasonably requested by City. Consultant shall protect City from all liens for labor performed, material supplied

or used by Consultant and/or any other person in connection with the Services undertaken by consultant hereunder, and shall not at any time suffer or permit any lien or attachment or encumbrance to be imposed by any sub-consultant, supplier or materialmen, or other person, firm or corporation, upon City property or any improvements thereon, by reason or any claim or demand against Consultant or otherwise in connection with the Services.

- R. Notices.** Every notice or other communication to be given by either party to the other with respect to this Agreement, shall be in writing and shall not be effective for any purpose unless the same shall be served personally or by United States certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, addressed if to City as follows: City of Evanston, 909 Davis Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201, Attention: Purchasing Division and to Consultant at the address first above set forth, or at such other address or addresses as City or Consultant may from time to time designate by notice given as above provided.
- S. Attorney's Fees.** In the event that the City commences any action, suit, or other proceeding to remedy, prevent, or obtain relief from a breach of this Agreement by Consultant, or arising out of a breach of this Agreement by Consultant, the City shall recover from the Consultant as part of the judgment against Consultant, its attorneys' fees and costs incurred in each and every such action, suit, or other proceeding.
- T. Waiver.** Any failure or delay by City to enforce the provisions of this Agreement shall in no way constitute a waiver by City of any contractual right hereunder, unless such waiver is in writing and signed by City.
- U. Severability.** In the event that any provision of this Agreement should be held void, or unenforceable, the remaining portions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.
- V. Choice of Law.** The rights and duties arising under this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Illinois. Venue for any action arising out or due to this Agreement shall be in Cook County, Illinois. The City shall not enter into binding arbitration to resolve any dispute under this Agreement. The City does not waive tort immunity by entering into this Agreement.
- W. Time.** Consultant agrees all time limits provided in this Agreement and any Addenda or Exhibits hereto are of essence to this Agreement. Consultant shall continue to perform its obligations while any dispute concerning the Agreement is being resolved, unless otherwise directed by the City.
- X. Survival.** Except as expressly provided to the contrary herein, all provisions of this Agreement shall survive all performances hereunder including the termination of the Consultant.
- Y. Digital Accessibility for Vendors.** The City requires that all applicable web content, mobile applications, and electronic documents provided by our vendor

partners meet WCAG 2.1 AA compliance and continue to maintain compliance with federal ADA requirements for local government platforms.

VI. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

In the event of the Consultant's noncompliance with any provision of Section 1-12-5 of the Evanston City Code, the Illinois Human Rights Act or any other applicable law, the Consultant may be declared non-responsible and therefore ineligible for future contracts or sub-contracts with the City, and the contract may be cancelled or voided in whole or in part, and such other sanctions or penalties may be imposed or remedies invoked as provided by statute or regulation.

During the performance of the contract, the Consultant agrees as follows:

A. That it will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin or ancestry, or age or physical or mental disabilities that do not impair ability to work, and further that it will examine all job classifications to determine if minority persons or women are underutilized and will take appropriate affirmative action to rectify any such underutilization. Consultant shall comply with all requirements of City of Evanston Code Section 1-12-5.

B. That, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by it on its behalf, it will state that all applicants will be afforded equal opportunity without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, or disability.

VII. SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

The Consultant certifies pursuant to the Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/2105 *et. seq.*), that it has a written sexual harassment policy that includes, at a minimum, the following information:

A. The illegality of sexual harassment;

B. The definition of sexual harassment under State law;

C. A description of sexual harassment utilizing examples;

D. The Consultant's internal complaint process including penalties;

E. Legal recourse, investigation and complaint process available through the Illinois Department of Human Rights and the Human Rights Commission, and directions on how to contact both; and

F. Protection against retaliation as provided to the Department of Human Rights.

VIII. CONSULTANT CERTIFICATIONS

A. Consultant acknowledges and agrees that should Consultant or its sub-consultant provide false information, or fails to be or remain in compliance with the Agreement, the City may void this Agreement.

B. Consultant certifies that it and its employees will comply with applicable provisions of the U.S. Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1201 et seq.) and applicable rules in performance under this Agreement.

C. If Consultant, or any officer, director, partner, or other managerial agent of Consultant, has been convicted of a felony under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, or a Class 3 or Class 2 felony under the Illinois Securities Law of 1953, Consultant certifies at least five years have passed since the date of the conviction.

D. Consultant certifies that it has not been convicted of the offense of bid rigging or bid rotating or any similar offense of any State in the U.S., nor made any admission of guilt of such conduct that is a matter of record. (720 ILCS 5/33 E-3, E-4).

E. In accordance with the Steel Products Procurement Act, Consultant certifies steel products used or supplied in the performance of a contract for public works shall be manufactured or produced in the U.S. unless the City grants an exemption.

F. Consultant certifies that it is properly formed and existing legal entity, and as applicable, has obtained an assumed name certificate from the appropriate authority, or has registered to conduct business in Illinois and is in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State.

G. If more favorable terms are granted by Consultant to any similar governmental entity in any state in a contemporaneous agreement let under the same or similar financial terms and circumstances for comparable supplies or services, the more favorable terms shall be applicable under this Agreement.

H. Consultant certifies that it is not delinquent in the payment of any fees, fines, damages, or debts to the City of Evanston.

IX. INTEGRATION

This Agreement, together with Exhibits A, B, C, and D sets forth all the covenants, conditions and promises between the parties with regard to the subject matter set forth herein. There are no covenants, promises, agreements, conditions or understandings between the parties, either oral or written, other than those contained in this Agreement. This Agreement has been negotiated and entered into by each party with the opportunity to consult with its counsel regarding the terms therein. No portion of the Agreement shall be construed against a party due to the fact that one party drafted that particular portion as the rule of *contra proferentem* shall not apply.

In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement, and any Exhibits, this Agreement shall control over the Exhibits. In no event shall any proposal or contract form submitted by Consultant be part of this Agreement unless agreed to in a writing

signed by both parties and attached and referred to herein as an Addendum, and in such event, only the portions of such proposal or contract form consistent with this Agreement and Exhibits hereto shall be part hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have each approved and executed this Agreement on the day, month and year first above written.

CONSULTANT:

**CITY OF EVANSTON
909 Davis Street
EVANSTON, IL 60201**

By: _____

By: _____

Luke Stowe

Its: _____

Its: City Manager

FEIN Number: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Approved as to form:

By: _____

Alexandra B. Ruggie

Its: Corporation Counsel

Revision: April 2021

EXHIBIT A – Project Milestones and Deliverables

This EXHIBIT A to that certain Consulting Agreement dated _____ between the City of Evanston, 909 Davis Street, Evanston, Illinois, 60201 (“City”) and _____ (“Consultant”) sets forth the Commencement and Completion Date, Services, Fees, and Reimbursable Expenses as follows:

I. **COMMENCEMENT DATE:** _____

II. **COMPLETION DATE:** _____

III. **FEES:**

IV. **SERVICES/SCOPE OF WORK:**

As defined in RFP/Q # 26-43 (Exhibit B) and Consultants Response to Proposal
(Exhibit C)

Dated: _____