

August 1, 2016

## **CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

### **SUBJECT**

Resolution authorizing execution of a contract with Brycer L.L.C. to ensure that fire/life safety systems are maintained in accordance with the appropriate codes and standards.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The City of Bellevue will receive approximately \$60,000 in revenue per year over the five term of the contract, commencing August 1, 2016 and ending June 11, 2021. If all parties agree in writing prior to expiration of the contract, the term of the agreement may be extended.

On June 6, 2016, Bellevue City Council adopted the 2015 Edition of the International Fire Code with amendments by Bellevue. Section 23.11.107.3 of the Bellevue City Code now requires confidence test reports to be filed with the The Compliance Engine ([www.TheComplianceEngine.com](http://www.TheComplianceEngine.com)) effective January 1, 2017. The Compliance Engine is a website owned by Brycer L.L.C. This contract formalizes our agreement with them to assist the department with this essential function.

The 2015 Edition of the International Fire Code, Section 113.6.6 - Confidence Test Report Filing Fee as adopted on June 6, 2016 by the City Council, set the filing fee at \$25.00 per report. Brycer's portion of the fee is \$10.00 per report. The remaining \$15.00 per report is collected at Bellevue Fire Department's request. Brycer will remit the \$15.00/per report to Bellevue Fire less a 6% service fee (total of \$14.10) which will be used to administer the confidence test program.

### **STAFF CONTACTS**

Mark Risen, Fire Chief, 452-6895

Ken Carlson, Fire Marshal, 452-6874

*Fire Department*

### **POLICY CONSIDERATION**

Fire staffing levels have not kept pace with the increase in fire/life safety systems due to increased development activity. This has diminished the department's ability to provide adequate oversight of the confidence testing program. This is all too common throughout the fire service and outsourcing a portion of this function has proven to be a more cost effective solution in communities throughout the United States. Options for consideration are to redirect existing resources or outsource the function.

### **DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**

- ☒ Action
- ☐ Discussion
- ☐ Information

Staff seeks Council authorization to enter into a contract with Brycer L.L.C. to enhance the oversight of fire/life safety systems that are relied on for the protection of building occupants, as well as the safety of police and firefighters.

## **BACKGROUND**

When buildings are constructed, altered or their use has changed, our adopted codes and ordinances sometimes require the installation of fire/life safety systems such as automatic fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, emergency responder radio systems and smoke control systems.

These fire/life safety systems protect building occupants, police and firefighters who respond to emergencies in these buildings, and protect property. Prior to occupancy we ensure that these systems are installed in accordance with the appropriate codes and standards and are working effectively. The owner of the building is required to test, maintain and repair these systems throughout the life of the building.

The City of Bellevue, together with our contract cities now have approximately 4,300 fire/life safety systems that we no longer have staffing levels to ensure that they are tested, maintained and repaired as they are required to do. Some building owners are unaware of the requirement to do so, others purposely choose to ignore their obligation to do so. Bellevue Fire is certainly not alone in our inability to address this challenge and a number of cities (Mercer Island, Redmond and Seattle) are currently planning implementation of a similar process with the same third party agency.

## **EFFECTIVE DATE**

If approved, this Resolution will become effective immediately upon Council adoption.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of a contract with Brycer L.L.C.
2. Do not adopt the resolution authorizing execution of a contract with Brycer L.L.C. to ensure that fire/life safety systems are maintained in accordance with the appropriate codes and standards.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Resolution No. 9128, authorizing execution of a contract with Brycer L.L.C. to ensure that fire/life safety systems are maintained in accordance with the appropriate codes and standards.

## **MOTION**

Move to adopt Resolution No. 9128 authorizing execution of a contract with Brycer L.L.C. to ensure that fire/life safety systems are maintained in accordance with the appropriate codes and standards.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL OFFICE**

Proposed contract with Brycer L.L.C