



# Memorandum

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Date: August 14, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

From: Rey Valdes, City Manager

Subject: **Agreement with The D&R Agency, LLC for Investigative Services and Waiver of Competitive Bidding.**

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## **Introduction**

This item is to enter into an agreement for professional services with The D&R Agency, LLC. My intention is for them to conduct a transparent, unbiased, and comprehensive review of the Doral Police Department and its policies and procedures.

## **Background**

Recent serious allegations have come to light in which the integrity of our Police Department and some of its personnel have been called into question. Our residents deserve and expect that those charged with public safety be of the highest caliber, integrity, and professional accountability. To that end, a thorough review of the Doral Police Department aims to restore that confidence in our residents. Furthermore, said review will clear up any doubts regarding allegations made against members of the department and allow them to have their reputation and character made whole and restored.

I consulted with former colleagues and others, both currently active in the field and retired from law enforcement, to identify not only individuals with the necessary experience for the task at hand but more importantly someone independent, who did not know me or members of our police department. This is critical to ensure that the process is transparent and free of any biases or prejudices against or in favor of any of the parties involved.

I interviewed several individuals who, despite being highly qualified, either knew me, members of the police department, or had preconceived notions about the department and its personnel. These factors made them excludable from further consideration due to the possibility of potential conflicts of interest and the perception of favoritism or biases.

The D&R Agency, LLC is an independent Fort Lauderdale based professional organization which is headed by Messrs. John DiPaolo and R. Scott Rivas. They have a combined 50+ years of experience as retired members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and bring unique talents and insight for the task for which they are being hired.

### **Procurement**

The City Council has the authority to waive competitive bidding by majority vote pursuant to Section 2-321 of the City of Doral Code of Ordinances upon the recommendation of the City Manager that it is in the best interest of the City to do so.

I have determined that The D&R Agency, LLC and its principals, Messrs. DiPaolo and Rivas possess the requisite and unique knowledge, skills, and most importantly a lack of personal relationships with the parties involved to conduct a thorough and transparent review, free of biases and prejudices. Accordingly, I recommend a bid waiver as being in the best interest of the City and by extension, the Police Department, and the residents it protects and serves.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Funding for professional services is available in General Government – Professional Services account no. 001.50005.500310 at a rate of \$185.00 per hour with an estimated total of \$11,100 but not to exceed budgeted funds.

### **Recommendation**

The City Manager's Office respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Councilmembers waive the competitive bidding requirements of the City's Code and authorize the execution of a professional services agreement with The D&R Agency, LLC.