

1 [Administrative Code - Agreements with Government Entities]

2  
3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to allow City departments to enter into**  
4 **and amend agreements for construction, goods, and services, and real property leases**  
5 **with government entities without complying with solicitation requirements that would**  
6 **otherwise apply, and without adhering to provisions in the Municipal Code that impose**  
7 **obligations on contracting parties as a condition to agreement with the City.**

8 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
9 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
10 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.  
11 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
12 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
13 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
14 subsections or parts of tables.

15 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

16 Section 1. Findings.

17 (a) The City regularly partners with federal, state, regional, and local government  
18 agencies. These partnerships allow the City to combine its knowledge and resources with  
19 those of other government entities to develop creative, cost-effective, and successful  
20 approaches, and to perform essential inter-governmental functions, such as the operation of  
21 San Francisco International Airport, the maintenance of watershed lands in Yosemite National  
22 Park in connection with Hetch Hetchy, or the administration of City medical facilities in  
23 collaboration with the University of California. These are but a few illustrations of the  
24 intergovernmental dimensions of City government.

25 (b) City law governing the execution of agreements relating to the purchase of  
goods and services, or the use of real estate, typically requires that the City engage in a  
competitive procurement process and include a variety of contract terms that may not be

1 necessary for inclusion in agreements with government agencies, which, like the City, owe a  
2 duty to the public, are subject to open government laws, do not seek to profit from  
3 agreements with other governmental entities, and often have enlightened policies toward their  
4 employees. While many City contracting policies contain exemptions for contracts with other  
5 government entities, these exemptions often require waivers and other administrative  
6 processes that delay the agreement. In other instances, the applicable City social or economic  
7 policy does not contain an exception for agreements with other government entities.

8 (c) This ordinance streamlines City contracting by authorizing City departments to  
9 enter into agreements with other governmental entities without having to comply with the  
10 contracting requirements or obligations imposed on contractors in the Municipal Code, while  
11 still requiring that departments exercise discretion to ensure that final agreements benefit and  
12 protect the City.

13  
14 Section 2. Chapter 1 of the Administrative Code is hereby revised by amending  
15 Section 1.24, to read as follows:

16  
17 **SEC. 1.24. HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENTS.**

18 (a) The City's Risk Manager is authorized to approve hold harmless agreements  
19 between the City and other persons or entities, if the Risk Manager determines that: (1)  
20 entering into such an agreement either (a) falls within normal business practices or (b)  
21 represents a prudent decision in light of all the circumstances; (2) the cost of the hold  
22 harmless provision is reflected in the price of the agreement; and (3) the hold harmless  
23 provision is necessary in order for the City to carry out a public purpose. The Risk Manager  
24 shall confer with the Controller and the City Attorney as necessary and appropriate in making  
25 determinations in accordance with this Section 1.24.

1           **(b)** The Risk Manager may approve hold harmless agreements by specific  
2 transaction or by general category. Any prior authorization for hold harmless agreements  
3 granted by the Board of Supervisors, either for specific transactions or for general categories  
4 of transactions, shall remain in effect.

5           **(c)** The Risk Manager shall maintain a record of all hold harmless agreements *the Risk*  
6 *Manager* ~~he or she~~ has approved and shall submit a copy of that list to the Board of  
7 Supervisors, with copies to the Controller and the City Attorney, on a quarterly basis.

8           **(d)** *City Risk Manager approval shall not be required for hold harmless agreements entered*  
9 *into between the City and a Government Entity or Government Entities. For purposes of this Section*  
10 *1.24, a Government Entity is as defined in Section 1.25.*

11  
12           Section 3. Chapter 1 of the Administrative Code is hereby revised by adding Section  
13 1.25, to read as follows:

14  
15           **SEC. 1.25. GOVERNMENT ENTITY AGREEMENTS.**

16           **(a) Purpose.** *The City from time to time enters into agreements with other Government Entities.*  
17 *This Section 1.25 sets forth basic principles concerning such agreements.*

18           **(b) Exemption from Obligations.** *Agreements with Government Entities entered into pursuant*  
19 *to Chapter 2A: Article IX, Chapter 6, Chapter 21, and Chapter 23, are not subject to the provisions in*  
20 *the Municipal Code, including but not limited to the Administrative, Labor and Employment,*  
21 *Environment, or Police Codes, imposing obligations or other restrictions on contractors.*

22           **(c) List of Obligations.** *The City Administrator, in consultation with the City Attorney, is*  
23 *authorized to publish and maintain a list of obligations or other restrictions imposed upon parties*  
24 *entering into expenditure contracts with the City. Said list shall serve the purposes of reference and*  
25 *convenience, but shall not be deemed an authoritative statement of all such obligations. Failure to*

1 include an obligation on the list shall not be deemed a statement that the obligation is not within the  
2 exemption established in subsection (b).

3 **(d) Government Entity Defined.** For the purposes of this Section 1.25, a “Government Entity”  
4 is any national, federal, state, regional, or local government agency, including but not limited to a joint  
5 powers authority, a special district and/or a utility district, a public health or public education district  
6 or institution, a public entity, a designee of a federal or state agency, or a quasi-governmental agency.

7  
8 Section 4. Chapter 2A, Article IX, of the Administrative Code is hereby revised by  
9 adding Section 2A.172, to read as follows:

10  
11 **SEC. 2A.172. GOVERNMENT ENTITY AGREEMENTS.**

12 As set forth in Section 1.25 of this Code, any agreement for the acquisition, lease, or permit of  
13 real property authorized under Administrative Code Chapter 2A, Article IX, with a Government Entity  
14 is exempt from any competitive process requirements under Chapter 2A, Article IX, or elsewhere in the  
15 Administrative Code and is not subject to the provisions in the Municipal Code, including but not  
16 limited to the Administrative, Labor and Employment, Environment, or Police Codes, imposing  
17 obligations or other restrictions on contractors. This Section 2A.172 applies to all agreements for an  
18 acquisition, lease, or permit of real property, however they are titled, including any contract,  
19 memorandum of understanding, or similar instrument, memorializing mutual obligations between the  
20 Airport Commission and a Government Entity or Government Entities. For purposes of this Section  
21 2A.172, “Government Entity” has the meaning set forth in Administrative Code Section 1.25(d), as may  
22 be amended from time to time..

23  
24 Section 5. Chapter 6, Article I, of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by  
25 revising Section 6.1 and Section 6.6, to read as follows:

1  
2           **SEC. 6.1. DEFINITIONS.**

3           \* \* \* \*

4           **Department Head.** The duly appointed General Manager, Director, or Executive  
5 Director of a City department authorized to perform Public Work or Improvements under  
6 Section 6.2. For purposes of this Chapter only, ~~an authorized a~~ Department Head may  
7 designate an individual to execute on ~~his or her~~ the Department Head's behalf any document  
8 referenced in this Chapter 6, including but not limited to Contracts, change orders,  
9 modifications, service orders, task orders, approvals, progress payments, and certificates of  
10 acceptance. Such designation shall be in writing and shall identify the individual by name and  
11 title and the scope and term of the designation.

12           **Government Entity.** Has the meaning set forth in Administrative Code Section 1.25(d), as may  
13 be amended from time to time.

14           \* \* \* \*

15  
16           **SEC. 6.6. FEDERALLY-FUNDED OR STATE-FUNDED CONTRACTS; PUBLIC**  
17 **WORK OR RELATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PERFORMED BY ANOTHER**  
18 **GOVERNMENT ENTITY.**

19           **(a) Time for Award.** For all Contracts that are fully or partially funded by Federal or  
20 State grants, loans, or other governmental source, the department concerned shall not be  
21 required to award such Contracts until 120 days from the date Bids are received. Such time  
22 may only be extended prior to award of the Contract and only upon (1) written agreement of  
23 the apparent Responsible Bidder with the lowest Responsive Bid; (2) approval by the Mayor  
24 or by resolution of the board or commission concerned; and (3) any necessary approvals of  
25 the Federal, State, or other governmental funding agency.

1           **(b) Contract Terms.** In all Contracts for the construction of any Public Work or  
2 Improvement which involves the use of any funds furnished, given, or loaned by the  
3 government of the United States or the State of California, all laws, rules, and regulations of  
4 the government of the United States or the State of California or of any of its departments  
5 relative to the performance of such work and the conditions under which the work is to be  
6 performed, shall prevail over the requirements of this Chapter 6 when such laws, rules, or  
7 regulations are in conflict.

8           **(c) Government Entity Agreements.** *As set forth in Section 1.25 of this Code, any department*  
9 *listed in Section 6.2 of this Code may enter into a Contract with a Government Entity, including for*  
10 *work related to a Public Work or Improvement, to be performed by the Government Entity on City-*  
11 *owned property. Contracts with a Government Entity are exempt from the solicitation requirements*  
12 *imposed by Chapters 6 and 14B of this Code. Contracts with a Government Entity are not subject to the*  
13 *provisions of the Municipal Code, including but not limited to the Administrative, Labor and*  
14 *Employment, Environment, or Police Codes, imposing obligations or other restrictions on contractors.*  
15 *This subsection (c) applies to all Contracts with Government Entities entered into under this Chapter 6,*  
16 *however such Contracts are titled, including but not limited to any agreement, memorandum of*  
17 *understanding, or similar instrument memorializing mutual obligations between the City and a*  
18 *Government Entity or Government Entities.*

19  
20           Section 6. Chapter 21 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising  
21 Sections 21.02 and 21.04, and adding Section 21.25, to read as follows:

22  
23           **SEC. 21.02. DEFINITIONS.**

24           As used in this Chapter 21, the following words shall have the following respective  
25 meanings:

1                   \* \* \* \*

2                   "General Services" shall mean those services that are not Professional Services.  
3                   General Services include, but are not limited to, janitorial, security guard, pest control, parking  
4                   lot management, and landscaping services.

5                   "Government Entity" has the meaning set forth in Administrative Code Section 1.25(d), as may  
6                   be amended from time to time.

7                   \* \* \* \*

8  
9                   **SEC. 21.04. DIRECT PURCHASING AUTHORITY OF DEPARTMENTS.**

10                  (a) Department heads ~~shall be authorized to~~ may purchase Commodities or Services  
11                  directly and without the approval of purchasing, as provided in the Charter or Municipal Code  
12                  of ~~San Francisco~~, or in the following circumstances:

13                  (1) Departments may directly enter into contracts when such purchase is  
14                  recommended by a department head and is approved by the Purchaser. The Purchaser's  
15                  approval of direct department purchases may be for individual contracts or for classes of  
16                  contracts anticipated to be required by the department.

17                  (2) Departments may directly enter into contracts with ~~other public~~ Government  
18                  Entities for the purpose of fulfilling their governmental functions, which may include the  
19                  provision or exchange of Commodities or Services ~~incidental to the purpose of the contract~~.

20                  (3) Departments may directly enter into contracts for the investment of trust  
21                  moneys and agreements relating to the management of trust assets.

22                  (4) Departments may directly enter into contracts to purchases of works of art or  
23                  artifacts for museums or to display in public areas; and may directly enter into contracts for  
24                  specialized art restoration, insuring, transport, storage, curation, and conservation services.  
25

1 (5) The Risk Manager ~~is authorized to~~ may directly purchase insurance and expert  
2 services ~~in forms, amounts, and by procedures as approved by the Board of Supervisors in the annual~~  
3 ~~Risk Management Budget.~~

4 (6) The General Manager of the Public Utilities Commission may directly purchase  
5 water, power, or natural gas, the conveyance or transmission of same, or ancillary services  
6 such as spinning reserve, voltage control, or load scheduling, as required for assuring reliable  
7 services in accordance with good utility practice, to or on behalf of the San Francisco Public  
8 Utilities Commission.

9 (7) ~~Officers and employees of the City~~ Departments may contract directly for the  
10 provision of services related to travel required for official City business, subject to compliance  
11 with rules and regulations established by the approving department and the Controller for  
12 reimbursement of such expenses.

13 (8) ~~When the purchase is made by the~~ The Director of Health may contract directly for  
14 purchases under the authority of Chapter 21A of this Code.

15 (b) The Purchaser shall determine the scope of direct purchasing authority granted under  
16 subsection (a) in the event of ambiguity.

17 (c) Nothing in this Section 21.04 is intended to affect the authorities granted to  
18 departments elsewhere in this Code or in the Charter.

19  
20 **SEC. 21.25. GOVERNMENT ENTITY AGREEMENTS.**

21 (a) Procurement. Contracts with a Government Entity are exempt from the solicitation  
22 requirements of Chapters 21 and 14B.

23 (b) Contractor's Obligations. As set forth in Section 1.25 of this Code, Contracts with a  
24 Government Entity are not subject to provisions of the Municipal Code, including but not limited to the  
25



1 Administrative, Labor and Employment, Environment, or Police Codes, imposing obligations or other  
2 restrictions on contractors.

3 (c) Scope. This Section 21.25 applies to all contracts under Chapter 21, however they are titled,  
4 including but not limited to any agreement, memorandum of understanding, or similar instrument  
5 memorializing mutual obligations between the City and a Government Entity or Government Entities.

6  
7 Section 7. Chapter 23, Article I, of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by  
8 revising Section 23.2 and adding Section 23.9, to read as follows:

9  
10 **SEC. 23.2. CHAPTER DEFINITIONS.**

11 Chapter Definitions. As used in this Chapter 23, the following initially capitalized terms  
12 shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section 23.2:

13 \* \* \* \*

14 "Convey" shall mean to convey, sell, transfer, grant, or relinquish an easement or fee title in  
15 Real Property. "Conveyance" shall have a correlative meaning.

16 "Government Entity" has the meaning set forth in Administrative Code Section 1.25(d), as may  
17 be amended from time to time.

18 \* \* \* \*

19  
20 **SEC. 23.9 GOVERNMENT ENTITY AGREEMENTS.**

21 (a) Agreements with Government Entities for an Acquisition, Conveyance, or Lease of Real  
22 Property are exempt from the Competitive Bidding Process and Competitive Bidding Procedures  
23 requirements of Chapter 23.

24 (b) As set forth in Section 1.25 of this Code, agreements with Government Entities for an  
25 Acquisition, Conveyance, or Lease of Real Property are not subject to provisions of the Municipal

1 Code, including but not limited to the Administrative, Labor and Employment, Environment, or Police  
2 Codes, imposing obligations or other restrictions on contractors.

3 (c) This Section 23.9 applies to all agreements for an Acquisition, Conveyance, or Lease of Real  
4 Property under Chapter 23, however they are titled, including but not limited to any Lease, contract,  
5 memorandum of understanding, or similar instrument memorializing mutual obligations between the  
6 City and a Government Entity or Government Entities.

7  
8 Section 8. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after  
9 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the  
10 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board  
11 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

12  
13 Section 9. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors  
14 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,  
15 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal  
16 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment  
17 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under  
18 the official title of the ordinance.

19  
20  
21 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
22 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

23 By: /s/ Gustin R. Guibert  
24 GUSTIN R. GUIBERT  
25 Deputy City Attorney

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**City and County of San Francisco**  
**Tails**  
**Ordinance**

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

**File Number:** 240301

**Date Passed:** May 14, 2024

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to allow City departments to enter into and amend agreements for construction, goods, and services, and real property leases with government entities without complying with solicitation requirements that would otherwise apply, and without adhering to provisions in the Municipal Code that impose obligations on contracting parties as a condition to agreement with the City.

April 29, 2024 Rules Committee - RECOMMENDED

May 07, 2024 Board of Supervisors - PASSED ON FIRST READING

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

May 14, 2024 Board of Supervisors - FINALLY PASSED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 240301

**I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was FINALLY PASSED on 5/14/2024 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.**

**f Angela Calvillo**  
Clerk of the Board

**London N. Breed**  
Mayor

**5/24/24**

**Date Approved**