

Contract Fraud Prevention

During this time of uncertainty when government must react quickly and outside of their normal process, the opportunity for short cuts and unethical activity during the contracting process is high. Advantages can be taken by all parties. Vigilance, both prior to and after a contract is signed, is extremely important.

What to Lookout For Prior to a Contract Being Awarded

1 Bribery

Offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting something of value for the purpose of influencing the action of an official in the discharge of his or her public or legal duties is potentially a criminal act. Examples:

- Overly friendly interaction between a city employee and a contractor or awardee.
- Sudden unexplained increase in wealth of a city employee.
- Acceptance of gifts or services from suppliers, contractors or awardees.



2 Disclosure of Confidential Info

Government personnel providing non-public information to one or a few competitors that gives them an undue advantage in the bidding process is not permissible.



3 Inappropriate Participation

Allowing bidders to participate in drafting city contract specifications may be impermissible and should be subject to review for misconduct.



4 False Statements and Claims

- Falsifying or concealing a material fact or providing materially false statements are grounds for action.
- Discrepancies between reported facts and supporting documentation or an inability or refusal to provide supporting documentation should be reported as well.



See something suspicious? Get in touch with us at www.phila.gov/oig or call 215-686-1770.