



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 7, 2018

Re: Supplemental Report - Agreement with Columbia STEM Alliance, Inc.

## Executive Summary

At the March 5, 2018 Council meeting, Resolution 29-18 authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Columbia STEM Alliance, Inc. was tabled until May 7, 2018. The agreement included financial support in the amount of \$35,000 from the FY2016 general fund savings to Columbia STEM Alliance, Inc., to promote and support education in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) within our community, in accordance with the City's Strategic Plan. Staff recommends withdrawing the resolution and moving forward with a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide STEM programs (see attached RFP).

## Discussion

Council tabled Resolution 29-18 until May 7, 2018 authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Columbia STEM Alliance, Inc. to provide financial support to build a collaborative network of educators, business partners and organizations to inspire interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers and generate a robust workforce for the community in support of the City of Columbia's Strategic Plan.

City Council voiced concerns about providing financial assistance to a not-for-profit organization in the amount of \$35,000 and whether this was an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. They also had concerns that there wasn't a specific scope of services included with the agreement. It was noted that although Council had agreed to do something related to STEM, they had not identified a specific organization that would receive the funding. It was further noted that they would feel more comfortable supporting it if there was a specific proposal in hand that could benefit the City's initiative.

City Manager stated that Council could approve the agreement that evening with the understanding that he would not release the funds until Council received a detailed description of the program or the Resolution could be tabled and an RFP developed for Council review. Since the March 5, 2018 meeting, staff has met with the City Manager and agreed that developing an RFP to provide STEM programs is the preferred method moving forward.

The attached RFP was created by a selection team consisting of Bernie Andrews with REDI, Toni Messina, Civic Relations Office and Strategic Plan Lead, and Cale Turner, City Purchasing Agent. This team will also review and make recommendations on the selection of the successful proposal(s), under the oversight of Carol Rhodes, Assistant City Manager. Staff



is requesting Council direction on whether the recommendation for an agreement can be made by the selection team or should be brought back to Council for their direction.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$35,000 has been allocated from the FY2016 general funds savings to be awarded to an individual or organization working to improve STEM outcomes for students in grades K-12.

Long-Term Impact: None

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Operational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

## Legislative History

Date	Action
03/05/2018	R29-18-Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Columbia STEM Alliance, Inc.

## Suggested Council Action

Staff recommends Council make a motion to withdraw Resolution 29-18 authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Columbia STEM Alliance, Inc. Further, Council should direct staff on whether the recommendation for an agreement can be made by the selection team (team members identified under Discussion) under the oversight of the Assistant City Manager or if an agreement should be brought forward by Resolution for council approval.